United Nations A/68/7/Add.11

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 134
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Progress on the implementation of recommendations related to strengthening information and systems security across the Secretariat

Twelfth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of recommendations related to strengthening information and systems security across the Secretariat (A/68/552) submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/254, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide an update on the status of implementation of the actions taken to address information security issues in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. During its consideration of the above-mentioned report, the Committee met with the representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 20 November 2013.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that in its first audit of the handling of information and communications technology (ICT) affairs in the Secretariat, including the Office of Information and Communications Technology (A/67/651), the Board of Auditors stated that the United Nations did not have an adequately secure information environment and issued a series of recommendations for addressing the weaknesses identified. In his report on the implementation of those recommendations (A/67/651/Add.1), the Secretary-General indicated that the Secretariat was developing an action plan consisting of 10 initiatives to address the most urgent shortcomings, comprising short-term measures as well as the definition of a sustainable medium- and long-term strategy for information security. The 10 initiatives focused on three areas: (a) preventive controls; (b) improved incident detection and response capabilities; and (c) governance, risk and compliance issues.

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3. The report of the Secretary-General provides information on the present situation with regard to ICT, the initial steps in the implementation of the action plan to strengthen information security and further action needed in this regard. The Secretary-General indicates that a comprehensive information security strategy, including websites and field missions, will be presented to the General Assembly in the context of the overall ICT strategy at the sixty-ninth session.

II. Activities completed to date

4. In paragraphs 10 and 11 of his report the Secretary-General provides information on the activities carried out to implement the action plan, which include: (a) strengthening of preventive controls by limiting administrative privileges, updating servers to current security levels, acquiring additional filtering systems for e-mail and Internet traffic, reviewing and replacing the firewall infrastructure with more advanced technology and acquiring a computer-based training course to raise awareness of information security among all staff across the Secretariat; (b) initiation of an assessment of the security risks posed by existing software applications in the context of the effort already under way to identify the applications that are to remain active after implementation of Umoja; and (c) acquisition of a managed service for the deployment and ongoing operation of intrusion detection systems for the primary and secondary data centres at Headquarters (New York and New Jersey) and at the enterprise data centres at the United Nations Support Base in Valencia, Spain, and at the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy, as well as consolidation of existing sources of cyberintelligence across the Secretariat.

5. Upon enquiry as to the status of the acquisition and installation of Internet (web) and e-mail filtering systems, the Advisory Committee was informed that an advanced Internet traffic filtering system had been acquired as part of an existing system contract and that the activities required for its implementation were under way, including modifications to the underlying infrastructure and an adjustment to the existing Internet filtering policy. The acquisition of the advanced e-mail traffic filtering system required a competitive procurement exercise which had been initiated in March 2013 and was still ongoing. Pending completion of the procurement process, a short-term leasing contract had been concluded as an interim arrangement with effect from the end of November 2013. **The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to provide, in his next report on this subject, assurances that the products and services acquired for the implementation of the information security action plan are procured in the most cost-effective manner possible.**

6. With regard to the computer-based training course referred to in paragraph 10 (a) of the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee was informed that a contract, at a cost of 35,826 euros, had been concluded for the development of a computer-based information security awareness training course to cover a common "core content" identified by the United Nations system-wide special interest group on information security. The course will be mandatory for all staff members and is expected to be rolled out in early 2014 on the common e-learning platform of the Secretariat (Inspira). **The Committee encourages the Secretary-General to continue to pursue system-wide collaboration and seek all options for further cooperation and sharing of solutions for information security among the organizations of the United Nations system.**

7. The Secretary-General indicates that, in addition to the measures implemented as part of the action plan, the Organization is introducing significant changes to its global ICT operations, enabling tighter access control and reducing vulnerability to intrusion, in order to support the implementation of Umoja, the enterprise resource planning project. These include, for instance, implementation of a new global wide-area network, the use of a standard access layer (Citrix) for all enterprise systems and the migration of software applications to the enterprise data centres in Valencia and Brindisi. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to accelerate, to the extent possible, the migration of applications to the enterprise data centres and to report comprehensively on progress achieved in the context of the above-mentioned report on the new ICT strategy.**

8. The Secretary-General further indicates that the Office of Information and Communications Technology decided, in July 2013, to obtain an independent assessment of the status of information security at the Secretariat, focused mainly on the infrastructure at Headquarters (A/68/552, para. 8). He states that the assessment validated and complemented internal findings and also revealed, inter alia, that: (a) the United Nations had insufficient information security controls in place, not only for traditional components of the information and communications infrastructure, but also with respect to systems that were not previously digitally controlled, such as building management systems, access control and monitoring solutions, telephony and videoconferencing systems and audiovisual devices; (b) the Department of Field Support is in need of new software tools to enable intrusion monitoring and filtering, along with upgraded firewalls, to enhance the security environment both at Headquarters and in the field; and (c) that there was a need to closely examine externally hosted websites, review security controls and provide assistance to the departments of the Secretariat in the area of website redesign in order to improve resistance against intrusion or defacement (ibid., paras. 13-15).

9. The Secretary-General also indicates that due to the increasing need for interconnectivity and the interdependence of the Secretariat ICT systems, an attack or intrusion anywhere could lead to a compromise everywhere, and that the measures taken to execute the action plan at Headquarters needed to be implemented at other duty stations and complemented by a significant enhancement of the monitoring capacity of the Organization (A/68/552, para. 18). In addition, the fragmented ICT network of the Organization made it more difficult and costly to ensure information security. The Secretary-General states that the strategy of the Organization is to expedite the transfer of its data centres to Valencia and Brindisi in order to deploy security and monitoring measures faster and to reduce costs, and that the elimination of fragmentation will be a central pillar of the above-mentioned new ICT strategy (ibid., para. 20).

10. **The Advisory Committee notes the progress made in the implementation of the action plan for addressing information security issues as well as the intention of the Secretariat to reduce fragmentation and costs in the deployment of security and monitoring measures. The Committee reiterates the views expressed in its previous report regarding the information security situation and remains concerned that this issue is only being addressed at such a late stage (A/67/770, para. 68).**

11. **Furthermore, given the global reach of the United Nations and the wide-ranging nature of its information systems, the Advisory Committee considers that there is also a need to protect the Organization against massive surveillance, interception and collection of communications and data, and recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to include in his next report, possible options for ensuring such protection.**

Governance, risk and compliance

12. In the area of governance, risk and compliance, the Secretary-General indicates that the actions taken included: (a) issuance of an information security policy directive to all heads of departments and offices as a general framework for the information security policies, procedures and guidelines of the Organization; (b) ongoing development of 52 ICT policies and procedures to help improve system performance, security and production integrity; (c) establishment of an information security working group as part of the ICT Management Coordination Group to increase the level of communication across duty stations; (d) ongoing development of an internal compliance function intended to increase adherence to internal policies and procedures and industry best practices; and (e) endorsement by the ICT network of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) of a minimum set of requirements for public websites developed by the Information Security Special Interest Group of the CEB in collaboration with the Office of Information and Communications Technology. In addition, under a recently established security policy framework by the Department of Field Support, security assessments of deployed information systems, infrastructure and other information assets were regularly conducted at Brindisi and Valencia and at field missions (A/68/552, para. 10 (d)).

13. The Advisory Committee requested further information on the security policy framework referred to in paragraph 10 (d) of the report of the Secretary-General, in particular, how the Office of Information and Communications Technology worked with the Department of Field Support on matters relating to information security, including coordination mechanisms and their respective division of roles and responsibilities. The Committee was informed that the aforementioned framework was applicable to both the Department of Field Support at Headquarters and field missions. The Department of Field Support had also developed a specific security policy framework for field missions to address the operational requirements and specific environment and risk profile in the field. In addition, through continued liaison and coordination with the Department, the Office of Information and Communications Technology ensured that field-specific guidelines were properly aligned to the global standards, policies and recommendations of the Secretariat. Furthermore, the Office of Information and Communications Technology and the Department of Field Support held regular consultations and maintained close collaboration with regard to commonly used systems and shared information/data on information security incidents and vulnerabilities.

14. **The Advisory Committee notes the issuance of a common, Secretariat-wide security directive. It recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts and to ensure adoption of common policies and procedures regarding information security in a manner that assures accountability at all levels of the Organization. The Committee reiterates that the Secretary-General should also take prompt remedial action to address any**

hindrances that may arise to the effective promulgation and enforcement of common information security policies throughout the Secretariat.

15. **In addition, taking into account the statement of the Secretary-General that an attack or intrusion anywhere in the United Nations network could lead to a compromise everywhere, as well as the need to implement security measures and monitor systems at all duty stations, the Advisory Committee emphasizes the need for a common, enterprise-wide approach for information and systems security across the Secretariat which ensures that there is no duplication of efforts or dual spending in this area. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that the medium- and long-term strategy for information security to be presented in the context of the new ICT strategy (see para. 3 above) be based on common policies and tools and address the current state of fragmentation of the information security environment in the most cost-effective and efficient manner possible.**

Other issues

16. The Advisory Committee recalls that to date, the General Assembly has approved the utilization of the facility at Valencia as a secondary active telecommunications facility and an enterprise data centre (see resolutions 63/262 and 66/264). **The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure the application of a consistent designation of the facility throughout the documents submitted for consideration by the Assembly, reflecting its use for ICT purposes (A/67/780/Add.10, paras. 29-31).**

III. Resource requirements

17. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the overall level of security-related resources approved by the General Assembly and actual expenditures over the past five years, as well as details on expenditures for information security incurred during the biennium 2012-2013, which are attached as annexes II and III, respectively, to the present report. The Committee notes that information security-related expenditures have almost quadrupled, from approximately $1.1 million in 2010-2011 to almost $4.1 million in 2012-2013.

18. Upon enquiry as to the level of investment envisaged to address security issues regarding the systems that are to be replaced by Umoja, the Advisory Committee was informed that some of the legacy systems were hosted on operating systems that were no longer supported and were at great risk, as no updates to protect against newly discovered vulnerabilities had been provided by vendors. Such systems needed to be migrated to a supported operating system, if possible. The systems that could not be migrated would benefit from the additional monitoring activities proposed to detect any potential breaches, in a more timely manner, and to limit their impact. **While recognizing the need to ensure information security of operational systems in order to protect United Nations facilities, the Committee stresses that new investments in systems that are to be replaced by Umoja and decommissioned in the near future should be kept to the minimum possible.**

Proposed resource requirements for 2014-2015

19. In the upcoming biennium the Secretary-General proposes, inter alia, to: (a) expand coverage of the intrusion detection service and filtering solutions to cover offices away from Headquarters and the regional commissions; (b) upgrade the firewall infrastructure; (c) enhance the internal security monitoring capacity; (d) deploy a vulnerability management system to enable the Organization to proactively identify specific weaknesses and prioritize their mitigation; and (e) conduct additional protective and detective controls for non-traditional infrastructure elements at Headquarters, as well as for the ICT environments at offices away from Headquarters, the regional commissions and the enterprise data centres in Valencia and Brindisi.

20. To implement the above measures, the proposed additional resource requirements for the biennium 2014-2015 amount to $3,440,700, mainly under: (a) other staff costs ($581,400) to cover the requirements for general temporary assistance for one P-4 security engineer to provide additional technical expertise associated with the application of the recently implemented intrusion detection system, and two P-3 posts to perform new functions of malware analysis, pattern creation and incident correlation, as well as to expand existing capabilities for penetration testing, vulnerability assessment, report generation and coordination of web application security testing; (b) travel of staff ($150,000) to cover the cost of travel of two staff members to all offices away from Headquarters, the regional commissions and the enterprise data centres in Valencia and Brindisi for a minimum two-week period; (c) contractual services ($1,325,000) to provide for the deployment and ongoing operation of intrusion detecting systems ($800,000), a vulnerability management system ($25,000); and highly specialized expertise to carry out, as needed, activities related to the ongoing implementation of the information security strategy of the Secretariat ($500,000); (d) furniture and equipment ($1,325,000) for enhancements to the firewall infrastructure ($1,000,000), continuous monitoring capabilities ($200,000) and web application security testing ($125,000); and (e) general operating expenses ($59,300).

21. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the resources proposed under section 29E of the proposed programme budget for 2014-2015 included requirements for the continuation of the following information security and risk management tasks: (a) development and maintenance of the information security policy and monitoring of compliance across organizational units; (b) provision of support to ICT risk assessment and mitigation activities; (c) coordination and provision of assistance in managing information security incidents; (d) coordination of responses and compliance with audit recommendations; and (e) processing of all requests for access to IMIS, the Office Document System (ODS), remote access to IMIS and Nucleus and other security registration-related requests. With regard to existing staffing resources, the Committee was further informed that the Information Security and Risk Management Unit in the Security and Architecture Section of the Office of Information and Communications Technology comprised one Information Security Officer (P-4), one Information Security Officer (P-3) and two Information Security Assistants (General Service (Other level)). That capacity was complemented by two general temporary assistance positions equivalent to the P-4 level to provide for a Compliance Officer and a Disaster Recovery Specialist. Furthermore, in most other departments and offices, information security-related activities were carried out by staff and contractors, who performed other duties as

well. According to a survey conducted in early 2013, the equivalent of a total of 12.5 full-time posts at the Professional and General Service levels were dedicated to ICT security across the Secretariat.

22. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its resolution 67/254, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on information security issues in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. **Notwithstanding the statement of the Secretary-General that his proposals are based, in part, on the outcome of the security assessment conducted in June 2013, including the broadening of the scope of activities in 2014 to further strengthen information security at offices away from Headquarters, at the regional commissions and in field missions, the Committee is of the view that some of the new requirements proposed in the report of the Secretary-General could have been anticipated and included in the proposed programme budget for 2014-2015. Moreover, the Committee notes that the proposals of the Secretary-General concern requirements of a structural, ongoing nature, which will also require a revision of the approved programme of work of the Office of Information and Communications Technology for the period 2014-2015 (see A/67/6/Rev.1, Programme 25). The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in the future, every effort is made to include requirements of an ongoing nature in the biennial programme budget in order to facilitate its consideration of the overall requirements of the Office of Information and Communications Technology.**

23. **In addition, given the need for a common, enterprise-wide approach to information security across the Secretariat based on common policies and tools (see paras. 14 and 15 above), the Advisory Committee further recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to apportion the resource requirements for information security on the basis of the same cost-sharing arrangement applied for the financing of the enterprise resource planning project (see resolution 63/262).**

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

24. The action to be taken by the General Assembly is set out in paragraph 30 of the report of the Secretary-General. **Subject to its comments and recommendations in the present report, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General. The Committee further recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to: (a) accommodate any additional requirements for temporary assistance and travel of staff from within the resources provided for in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015; and (b) report in the relevant performance report on any additional expenditures required under contractual services (A/68/552, para. 27) or under furniture and equipment (ibid., para. 29).**

Annex I

Summary of identified security issues and related solutions

Issue	*Solution*	*Description*
Inability to monitor or discover network traffic generated from continued covert or advanced activities by groups associated with advanced persistent attacks. Lack of network visibility	Intrusion detection services	Intrusion detection services will provide for the strategic placement of network appliances within the network to provide visibility over all network traffic. The service will enable "alerts" of suspicious activities and capture of network traffic in real time. These alerts will be sent to a supporting company that will provide a team of experts to comb through resulting alerts and provide United Nations security staff with actionable critical notifications.
Continued compromise of United Nations assets such as workstations and desktops through the use of highly customized malicious software sent via e-mail. Such attacks have risen by 76 per cent over nine months in 2013 as opposed to observed compromises in 2012	Advanced e-mail filtering	Customized malicious software is designed to avoid detection by traditional anti-virus solutions. The advanced filtering solution employs techniques that analyse the behaviour of such files and catch malicious software that most likely would have bypassed existing solutions
Inability to protect against advanced persistent attacks	Next-generation firewalls	Currently, many attacks are now designed to bypass traditional firewalls. Application of next-generation or modern firewall protections, which take additional steps to bastion the Organization, have been applied in New York and at two enterprise data centres. The request is for expansion of this capability to all locations to ensure uniform protection to the United Nations network. Requested personnel are critical for the system's initial configuration and operation
Inability to correlate data from multiple systems to determine trends in activity and reference historical (logged) system data. Lack of visibility	Continuous monitoring (log analysis)	The system collects logs of many systems to find trends of attacks across the network and provides quick access to locate the history of an attack when it is found. The system is critical to establish the overall use of all security systems. Requested personnel are critical for the system's initial configuration and operation

Issue	*Solution*	*Description*
Lack of resources to properly determine the sources of attacks and the full extent of damage associated with an information breach	Malware, forensics and incident response	Requested personnel will provide the capacity to quickly examine what information may be lost after a breach, or the mechanism of attack, thus supplementing and increasing the skillset of United Nations staff in this area
Lack of compliance, updates and patching of United Nations systems globally leads to a higher level of vulnerability	Vulnerability assessments	Continued monitoring and checking of compliance through the use of automated software to ensure that all United Nations systems are "up to date" and to determine remaining vulnerabilities

Annex II

Estimated annual and total expenditures on information and communications technology (ICT) since 2010

(In United States dollars)

	Biennium 2010-2011			*Biennium 2012-2013*		
	2010	*2011*	*Total*	*2012*	*2013*	*Total*
Posts	318 000.00	318 000.00	636 000.00	719 600.00	773 450.00	1 493 050.00
Consultants		177 221.00	177 221.00	112 777.00		112 777.00
Training				436.67		436.67
ISO 27001 consultant travel				14 130.00	2 995.00	17 125.00
Independent security assessments					60 000.00	60 000.00
ISO 27001 assessments	24 000.00	33 025.49	57 025.49	38 170.90	1 545.00	39 715.90
Specialized server protection software		64 276.10	64 276.10	7 122.15	7 122.15	14 244.30
Endpoint protection software	4 144.50	193 435.18	197 579.68	234 711.39	300 611.97	535 323.36
Governance and compliance software				19 703.00		19 703.00
Advanced e-mail filtering solution for United Nations Headquarters					200 000.00	200 000.00
Firewalls for United Nations Headquarters				307 968.80	540 000.00	847 968.80
Additional ICT action plan measures					715 158.00	715 158.00
Total	**346 144.50**	**785 957.77**	**1 132 102.27**	**1 454 619.91**	**2 600 882.12**	**4 055 502.03**

Annex III

Expenditures incurred for information security during the biennium 2012-2013

(In United States dollars)

Item	*Name*	*Description*	*Price*	*Quantity*	*Total*
1.	**Short order purchase order items (<4,000)**				
	Manual web security testing software	Integrated platform for performing Security testing of web applications. Unique with many manual, professional oriented features to be used by advanced testers. Low cost, high value tool	300	2	600
	Basic vulnerability scanning software	Automated network/server vulnerability analysis tool — low cost, allows the use of multiple servers	3 900	1	3 900
	Intelligence and analytics tools	Open source intelligence and forensics application, with casefile application	760 + 200	1	960
	Forensics software	Leading forensics toolkit can be used on desktops, servers and mobile devices	2 999 + 599	1	3 598
	Hard drive forensic tool	Used to externally connect SATA hard drives to a PC for copy and/or forensic work	75	2	150
	Subtotal				**9 208**
2.	**Request for quotation items (<40,000)**				
	Website testing security scanner tool	Automated website security testing/analysis software tool	5 950	1	5 950
	Website testing security analysis tool	Automated website security testing/analysis software tool	20 300	1	15 000
	Firewall management software	Software for firewall rule management and tracking	35 000	1	35 000
	Subtotal				**55 950**
3.	**Invitation to bid items (<30,000-200,000)**				
	1 Contractual services (firewall expert)	Securing of external consultant for support of network redesign and firewall implementation. 1 month time in late Nov., early Dec.	40 000	1	40 000
	Subtotal				**40 000**

Item	*Name*	*Description*	*Price*	*Quantity*	*Total*
4.	**Request for proposal items (Ongoing, varying)**				
	Information security awareness course	Development of an information security awareness module in HTML5 for use in Inspira	30 000	1	30 000
	Advanced e-mail filtering system	Provision of fire eye e-mail MPS appliances and software, including professional services for advanced e-mail filtering	230 000	1	230 000
	Checkpoint layer 7 firewalls	Purchase of multiple checkpoint layer 7 firewalls and add-on blades	540 000	1	540 000
	Managed security services	Procurement of multiple-year contract for managed security services, including hardware, software and outsourced security expertise for network monitoring	350 000	1	350 000
	Subtotal				**1 150 000**
	Grand total				**1 255 158**

United Nations A/68/7/Add.12

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 134
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Request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

Thirteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/532) in which he provides details on the progress achieved by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, gives an update on the financial crisis facing both the international and national components of the Chambers and seeks the approval by the General Assembly of a subvention of up to $51.1 million for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2015 from the regular budget of the United Nations. During its consideration of the report, the Committee met representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 3 December 2013.

II. Background

2. In its resolution 57/228 A on the Khmer Rouge trials, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Government of Cambodia towards the establishment of Extraordinary Chambers within the existing courts structure of Cambodia, with international assistance, for the prosecution of crimes committed during the period of Democratic Kampuchea. Subsequently, the Assembly approved, in its resolution 57/228 B, an agreement that regulated the cooperation between the United Nations and the Government of Cambodia in bringing to trial senior leaders of Democratic Kampuchea and those who were most responsible for the crimes and serious violations of Cambodian penal law, international humanitarian law and custom, and international conventions recognized by Cambodia, that were committed during the period from 17 April 1975

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to 6 January 1979. The Assembly also decided, in paragraph 3 of that resolution, that the expenses of the Extraordinary Chambers would be defrayed by the United Nations in accordance with the relevant provisions of that agreement and would be borne by voluntary contributions from the international community.

3. In 2005, the Secretary-General reported to the General Assembly that sufficient contributions and pledges had been received to fund the international staffing of the Extraordinary Chambers and their operations for a sustained period of time (A/60/565, para. 3). The above-mentioned agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Cambodia thus entered into force on 29 April 2005. Further funding was mobilized from 2006 to 2011 to support the operations of the international component (A/68/532, para. 28). Since 2005, the Secretary-General has issued two reports on the Khmer Rouge trials in which he has provided updates on the progress achieved towards establishing and operating the Chambers (A/62/304 and A/67/380).

4. The Extraordinary Chambers comprise both national and international components that are separately financed. The Government of Cambodia is responsible for the salaries of Cambodian judges and local personnel, while the United Nations is responsible for those of the international judges and international personnel, pursuant to articles 15 and 16 of the above-mentioned agreement.

5. In paragraph 66 of his report of 2012 on the Khmer Rouge trials (A/67/380), the Secretary-General indicated that the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers was facing an acute funding shortfall that could jeopardize the future operations of the Chambers. The General Assembly, by its decision 67/539, took note of that report. In his most recent report, the Secretary-General states that, while the national component of the Chambers was for the most part funded during 2012, it experienced a serious shortfall in pledges for 2013, creating a funding crisis of greater severity than that of the international component (A/68/532, para. 31).

6. Subsequently, the Secretary-General, in letters to the President of the General Assembly and to permanent representatives dated August 2013, indicated that the Extraordinary Chambers were on the brink of financial failure and that the voluntary funding mechanism was not sustainable, encouraging the international community to bring the operations of the Chambers onto a secure financial footing (A/68/532, summary). The Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General has also written to the principal donors group and the Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia concerning the coverage of the national component costs, which provided the basis for two reimbursable loan arrangements between the United Nations and the Government of Cambodia (see paras. 24-28 for the Advisory Committee's comments on these arrangements).

7. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the effective functioning of the Extraordinary Chambers has been jeopardized by significant and persistent financial insecurity, resulting in two national staff walkouts and various resignations that, in turn, threaten judicial operations and prolong their timeline (A/68/532, para. 3). He points out that the financial crisis of the Chambers has become chronic, continuing throughout 2013. Owing to uncertainties over whether sufficient funds would be available to meet salary obligations for international staff, a recruitment freeze has been in effect since June 2012 and staff are extended in three-month increments (ibid., para. 30). He further states that, given the advanced age and

deteriorating capacities of the accused, the lack of financial resources could frustrate the delivery of justice (ibid., para. 37). This would, in his view, be a serious setback to the international community's fight against impunity (ibid., para. 45).

III. Current financial position

8. The financial status of the Extraordinary Chambers is described in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, together with the indicative resource requirements for both the international and national components, disaggregated by component and funding availability. The table below provides a summary of the financial status of both components. It is indicated that the figures for 2014-2015 are subject to change pending review and approval by the group of interested States (A/68/532, annex, financial status of the Chambers, footnote (c)). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, at the time of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General, the budget proposal for 2014-2015 was with the principal donors group for review and an approved budget was expected by mid-December 2013.

Financial status of the Chambers

(Millions of United States dollars)

Component	*International: United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials*	*National: Cambodia*
Income received from 2005 to 2012	132.7	41.8
Expenditure from 2005 to 2012	131.2	42.1
Fund balance as at 31 December 2012	1.5	(0.3)
Contributions received and outstanding pledges for 2013[a]	23.0	6.3
Expenditure from 1 January 2012 to 30 September 2013	19.3	5.2
Estimated expenditure from 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2013	5.7	2.3
Projected cash shortfall as at 31 December 2013	(0.6)	(1.6)
Estimated requirements for 2014[b]	24.4	6.4
Estimated requirements for 2015[b]	22.0	6.0

[a] These figures do not include any additional amounts pledged to cover 2013 expenditure at the pledging conference held on 7 November.

[b] These figures exclude amounts pledged for the period 2014-2015.

9. The Secretary-General forecasts a funding shortfall for the international component of $0.6 million for 2013 and $42.3 million for 2014-2015 (A/68/532, para. 39). For the national component, he indicates that a cash shortfall of $1.6 million remains for 2013, the Secretariat's efforts to have pledges redirected to that component notwithstanding. While funding from the Government of Cambodia was forecasted to be $3.6 million for the period 2014-2015, the funds were restricted to operational costs rather than national staff costs. Given that there is only one bilateral pledge expected for the period 2014-2015 to support the specific functions of the Victims Support Section of the Extraordinary Chambers, a significant pledging shortfall for the national component is anticipated (ibid., para. 40).

10. Subsequent to the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee notes that a pledging conference was held on 7 November 2013 to seek funding support for both components of the Extraordinary Chambers for the period 2014-2015. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that representatives of some 15 Member States attended the conference and that pledges totalling $10.3 million were announced for the international component, while $3.3 million was announced by the Government of Cambodia for the national component. A summary of outstanding and tentative pledges is provided in the annex to the present report. For the international component, the Committee was informed that, of the total amounts pledged, $2,869,256 represented new pledges. The Committee was also informed that, assuming receipt of those funds in 2013, the projected carry-forward balance would amount to $2.35 million, rather than the projected shortfall of $0.6 million reflected in the report of the Secretary-General. For the national component, the pledge announced is $300,000 less than the figure projected by the Secretary-General. The Committee was also informed, however, that the Government of Cambodia had decided to provide $1.8 million as a bridging fund to cover staffing costs from September to the end of 2013.

11. On the international side, the Secretary-General indicates that, based on the pattern of contributions during 2012-2013, it is expected that there will be insufficient fund balances available at any given time to ensure reasonable duration of staff contracts. Furthermore, the operational reserve that had accumulated since the court's inception was fully depleted in 2012 to meet staff payroll costs and remains at zero (A/68/532, para. 39). On the national side, it is indicated that, the two reimbursable loans from the United Nations notwithstanding, the national component is expected to face a significant pledging shortfall in 2014-2015, which in turn could result in further staff walkouts and disruptions of the judicial proceedings (ibid., para. 40).

12. **The Advisory Committee notes with concern the adverse cash position of the Extraordinary Chambers and the steadily worsening financial situation over the course of the past 18 months. While noting that the Secretary-General first alerted Member States to the funding problems in his report of September 2012 on the Khmer Rouge trials, the Committee is concerned that the severity of the funding shortfall is only now being brought to the attention of the appropriate committee of the General Assembly.**

IV. Resource requirements and request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers

13. The Secretary-General indicates that the total resource requirements for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2015 amount to $58.8 million: $46.4 million for the international component and $12.4 million for the national component (A/68/532, para. 39) (see also paras. 24-28 below). To address the funding shortfalls, the Secretary-General is seeking the approval of the General Assembly for a subvention from the United Nations of up to $51.1 million for this period to cover the total resource requirements for the Extraordinary Chambers during this time. He is therefore proposing that the Assembly approve an additional appropriation of $24.8 million from the regular budget for 2014 and decide to

consider a subsequent report on a subvention of up to $26.3 million for 2015 at the main part of its sixty-ninth session.

14. Within the proposed overall subvention, $42.3 million would be for the costs of the international component, while $8.8 million would be in the form of reimbursable loans to the Government of Cambodia to cover the staff costs of the national component (A/68/532, paras. 41-42). The Advisory Committee notes that these figures do not reflect the outcome of the most recent pledging conference held on 7 November 2013.

15. With regard to the international component, the Secretary-General indicates that intensive fundraising efforts would continue and that the proposed subvention would be considered to be a reserve to allow for the issuance of staff contracts for up to a year and ensure the uninterrupted operation of the Extraordinary Chambers. He adds that the subvention would be drawn upon only on a monthly basis, should the level of extrabudgetary funds be insufficient to meet salary and operational costs. In addition, proposed drawdowns would require a detailed reporting of expenditure to the Controller and demonstrated need for future release of funds (ibid., para. 41).

16. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to obtain additional voluntary contributions, including by broadening the donor base for funding the future activities of the Extraordinary Chambers.**

17. The Advisory Committee notes that proposed staffing levels, both international and national, are set out in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General. In this regard, staffing for the international component is projected to decline from 169 staff in 2013 to 146 staff in 2015. The overall staffing for the national component is projected to decline from 283 staff in 2013 to 170 staff in 2015. In contrast, the budgetary requirements for the Defence Support Section are projected to increase significantly over the same period.

18. Given that the Extraordinary Chambers have been funded solely from voluntary sources for the entire eight years of their operation, the Advisory Committee has never previously expressed any observations or recommendations on the level of the proposed budget or related staffing levels. Furthermore, the report of the Secretary-General contains a request for a subvention, rather then a full-fledged budget proposal. Should it be approved by the General Assembly, the subvention would be offset by any voluntary contributions subsequently received by the Chambers. The Committee has therefore not reviewed the resource requirements for the Chambers, nor has it requested supplementary detail or explanatory justification in terms of the proposed staffing levels and grades or the amount of non-staff costs proposed during the course of its review.

19. **The Advisory Committee stresses that at this stage it has not yet performed a detailed examination of the estimates before it in terms of determining whether the staffing and budgetary requirements for the Extraordinary Chambers are properly justified for the period 2014-2015. Nevertheless, without prejudice to any future decisions taken by the General Assembly on the proposed subvention or any future financing modality (see para. 33), the Committee expects that, in the light of their difficult financial circumstances, the Chambers will intensify their efforts to identify savings and efficiencies.**

V. Case progress and management

20. Periodic reports of the Secretary-General have contained details concerning the progress of cases before the Extraordinary Chambers.[1] Section II of the most recent report provides the most up-to-date details on progress made. The Committee notes that only case 001, the first tried before the Chambers, has been concluded, with the Supreme Court Chamber rendering its decision on appeals on 3 February 2012. Cases 002, 003 and 004 are, according to the Secretary-General, at various stages of completion.

21. While the co-prosecutors have stated publicly that there will be no further cases after cases 003 and 004, the Secretary-General indicates that it is difficult to project the overall timeline for the completion of the court's work (A/68/532, para. 4). He also states that the indicative court schedule projects judicial activity until 2018, and possibly beyond (ibid., para. 38).

22. In this regard, the Advisory Committee notes that, at the time of their establishment, it was estimated that the Extraordinary Chambers would complete their work within three years from the time at which the Office of the Co-Prosecutors began operations. In his previous report on the Khmer Rouge trials, however, the Secretary-General indicated that that timeline had been underestimated, in part as a result of the complex dimensions of running a trilingual hybrid court (A/67/380, para. 57).

23. Furthermore, the Secretary-General stated in paragraph 57 of that report that it was impossible to determine the total financial support needed to complete the overall programme of work of the Extraordinary Chambers. **Irrespective of the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly on the future financing of the Extraordinary Chambers, the Advisory Committee recommends that a funding plan beyond 2014-2015 be developed, based on a rigorous forecast of the workload associated with the timely completion of the three remaining cases and the development and implementation of a disciplined case-management methodology.**

VI. Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Cambodia

24. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that, while the national component of the Extraordinary Chambers was for the most part funded during 2012, it experienced a serious shortfall in pledges for 2013, creating a crisis of greater severity than that of the international component (A/68/532, para. 31). Following an approach by the Secretariat to the Governments of Norway and Sweden to redirect their pledges from the international component to the national component, a reimbursable loan of $2.1 million was put in place early in 2013 (ibid., para. 32). That did not resolve the issue in the long term, however, and salaries were discontinued starting in June 2013, with more than 100 national staff going on strike on 1 September 2013 (ibid., para. 33). Two additional donors agreed to have their voluntary contributions redirected in support of the national component and, consequently, a second exceptional, reimbursable loan amounting to

[1] A/58/617, A/59/432 and Add.1, A/60/565, A/62/304 and A/67/380.

$1.2 million was made to the Government of Cambodia in order to secure the return of the national staff. Salary arrears, excluding those for judicial officials, were therefore settled up to the end of August 2013. The Secretary-General indicates, however, that no long-term solution to the funding crisis has been found and he remains concerned about the welfare of the staff and the risk that the Chambers will not be able to complete their work (ibid., para. 34).

25. Concerning the legal basis under which the Secretary-General made the two loans, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the redirection by the Secretary-General of the voluntary contributions was governed by the agreements with the donors and, as such, for the donors concerned, the authority derived from their ultimate decision to have the funds used to ensure that the work of the Extraordinary Chambers was not disrupted.

26. Upon further enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, because no new funding had emerged for the national component, the Secretariat attached no terms and conditions to the reimbursable loans, other than requiring that the funds be repaid when the Government of Cambodia had sufficient funds to do so. In this connection, the Committee notes that article 15 of the above-mentioned agreement between the Government and the United Nations provides that all salaries and emoluments of Cambodian judges and other Cambodian personnel shall be defrayed by the Government.

27. The Advisory Committee was also informed that, from 2005 to 2012, funding for national staff salaries had, in fact, been paid from trust fund balances relating to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia.[2] Funds amounting to $5.37 million had been approved for that purpose by donors. In addition, the Committee was informed that, although the Government of Cambodia had provided resources to cover other operational costs, it had not, in fact, been covering national staff costs since the inception of the Extraordinary Chambers.

28. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will engage with the relevant authorities charged with the proper functioning of the national component to ensure that the terms of the above-mentioned agreement are properly observed.**

VII. Financing of judicial proceedings

29. The Secretary-General, in his first report on the Khmer Rouge trials, indicated that the costs of the Extraordinary Chambers would constitute an expense of the Organization under Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations and should, in his view, be financed from assessed contributions (A/57/769, paras. 72-78). He added that the operation of a court should not be left to the vagaries of voluntary contributions, drawing on the experiences and lessons learned from the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which had experienced difficulties in achieving a sustainable and predictable funding base to cover the costs of its operations. Nevertheless, as indicated in paragraph 2 of the present report, the General Assembly decided, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 57/228 B, that the expenses of the Chambers would be borne by voluntary contributions from the international community.

[2] Subfund of the Cambodia Trust Fund; Trust Fund for the Repatriation of Cambodian Refugees and Displaced Persons; and subfund of the Voluntary Fund for the Cambodian Peace Process.

30. With regard to the financing arrangements for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, an entity broadly comparable to the Extraordinary Chambers, the Advisory Committee notes that the Court, created pursuant to Security Council resolution 1315 (2000), was also to be funded through voluntary contributions, but has since become reliant on a series of subventions from the regular budget, the most recent being for $14 million, which was approved to cover its activities in 2013 by the General Assembly in paragraph 27 of section I of its resolution 67/246. In the context of considering that request for a subvention from the regular budget, the Committee made a general observation concerning the problems of sustaining voluntary contributions to finance judicial proceedings owing to the challenges encountered in attracting sustained and predictable donor support and the unpredictable length of time often required to complete judicial proceedings (A/67/648, para. 6).

31. Regarding the Extraordinary Chambers, the Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General has indicated in his letters to Member States that the voluntary funding mechanism of the Chambers is not sustainable and has encouraged the international community to bring the operations of the Chambers on to a secure financial footing (A/68/352, summary). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, given the difficulties experienced during the past two years in operating the Chambers, the Secretariat had determined that a subvention was the only viable option to ensure financial stability. At the same time, in making his proposal for a subvention from the regular budget of the United Nations, the Secretary-General states that he proposes to preserve the extrabudgetary funding basis of the Chambers (ibid., para. 41), thereby maintaining it as a voluntarily funded body. **The Advisory Committee recalls its previous comments concerning the difficulties in sustaining voluntary contributions to finance judicial proceedings and the need to take into consideration the lessons learned from these experiences for future international tribunals and courts (A/67/648, para. 6).**

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

32. In his report, the Secretary-General states that it is critical for the international community to ensure that the Extraordinary Chambers have the financial means required to ensure accountability for the crimes perpetrated during the former Khmer Rouge regime. suggesting that the financial failure of the court would, in his view, constitute a serious setback to the international community's fight against impunity (A/68/532, para. 45).

33. **Bearing in mind that the General Assembly decided to establish the Extraordinary Chambers on the basis of voluntary financing, it would be for the Assembly to decide, as a matter of policy, whether to finance the future activities of the Chambers through a different source of funding.**

34. **In view of the projected funding shortfall in both international and national components for 2014, the fluid nature of outstanding pledges and commitments and the urgent need for resources to ensure the continued operations of the Extraordinary Chambers, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed $12.4 million for the period from 1 January to**

31 December 2014 for the Chambers as a bridging financing mechanism, pending consideration by the Assembly of the future financing of the Chambers, and request the Secretary-General to report on the use of the commitment authority during the main part of its sixty-ninth session;

(b) Comprehensively examine the matter of the future financing of the Chambers for 2015 and beyond no later than the main part of the sixty-ninth session;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to disclose details concerning the use of the commitment authority for 2014 in the first performance report of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015.

35. **The commitment authority, which amounts to 50 per cent of the request of the Secretary-General in 2014, would be pending receipt of contributions, including voluntary contributions from donors, to the Extraordinary Chambers, so that the Chambers can make progress towards completing their work. Should contributions be received in excess of the overall requirements for 2014, such amounts should be refunded to the Organization.**

36. **The Advisory Committee stresses that its recommendation in the preceding paragraph is made on the basis that:**

(a) Should voluntary contributions be received in excess of the remaining requirements for the Extraordinary Chambers for 2014, any regular budget funds provided to the Chambers for this period would be refunded to the United Nations;

(b) Appropriate measures for achieving operational savings and efficiencies in the Chambers are in place (see para. 19);

(c) The Secretary-General intensifies his efforts to seek voluntary contributions (see para. 16);

(d) Appropriate monitoring and reporting arrangements are in place to ensure an incremental release of funds to the Chambers, based on the monthly cash position;

(e) A funding plan beyond the period 2014-2015 is developed, based on a rigorous forecast of the workload associated with the timely completion of the three remaining cases and the development and implementation of a disciplined case-management methodology (see para. 23).

Annex

Summary of outstanding and tentative pledges (revalued as at 8 November 2013)

(United States dollars)

	Pledges made in support of the international component		*Pledges made in support of the national component*	
Member State	*2013 quarter 4*	*2014 quarter 1-quarter 2*	*2014*	*2015*
Cambodia			1 700 000	1 600 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (£100 000)	159 744			
Germany (EUR 700 000)		938 338		
United States of America	800 000	4 150 000		
Sweden (Skr 7 000 000)	1 045 556			
Finland (EUR 1 145 000)	1 534 853			
Denmark (Dkr 8 000 000)	1 437 298			
Liechtenstein (SwF 30 000)	32 644			
Total	**5 010 095**	**5 088 338**	**1 700 000**	**1 600 000**

United Nations A/68/7/Add.13

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 134 and 94

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.37

Fourteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/68/14) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.37 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. During its consideration of the statement, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications, concluding with responses received in writing on 3 December 2013.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.37, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be established in 2014 on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to continue to study the issues of the use of information and communications technologies in conflicts and how international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States, as well as the concepts referred to in its operative paragraph 2, and to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the results of the study.

3. The statement submitted by the Secretary-General includes information with respect to the following: (a) the relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and to the programme of work in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015; (b) the activities by which the requests would be implemented; and (c) the modifications required in the

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programme of work and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

4. The table contained in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's statement provides a summary of the total estimated additional requirements, in the amount of $1,439,400, for the biennium 2014-2015, as follows:

(a) Under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, $654,300;

(b) Under section 4, Disarmament, $785,100.

5. According to the statement of the Secretary-General, the Office for Disarmament Affairs would provide the substantive services necessary for the convening of the group of governmental experts. It is envisaged that the group, consisting of 20 experts, will hold a total of four one-week meetings during 2014 and 2015: the first in July 2014 in New York, the second in January 2015 in Geneva, and the third and fourth in April and June 2015, respectively, in New York. The statement further provides that the additional requirement under section 4, Disarmament, relates to the travel of experts ($738,100) and the cost of consultants ($47,000). The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that the cost of travel of experts includes the cost of travel of staff ($7,884). The Committee was further informed that the Secretary-General's proposal to have 20 experts in the group is based on the need to ensure broader and more equitable geographic representation, as well as to address concerns expressed by Member States and avoid the underrepresentation of some regional groups, and that the proposal concerning the venues of the meeting was made by the Secretariat on the basis of past practice.

6. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.37, additional resources in the amount of $1,439,400 would be required under section 4, Disarmament ($785,100), and section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($654,300), of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriation for the biennium.**

United Nations A/68/7/Add.14

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Items 134 and 19 (a)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in General Assembly resolution 67/290, entitled "Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development" (A/68/365)

Fifteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 resulting from decisions contained in General Assembly resolution 67/290, entitled "Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development" (A/68/365). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications, concluding with responses received in writing on 26 November 2013.

2. As indicated in paragraph 1 of the report of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/290, decided on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as called for in resolution 66/288. According to the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, he had submitted a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/67/L.72 (A/67/927), prior to the adoption of the draft resolution, in which he informed the Assembly that the implementation of the recommendations contained in resolution 67/290 would give rise to additional resource requirements in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

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3. The Secretary-General further stated that, before the adoption of resolution 67/290, the President of the General Assembly had drawn the attention of the Assembly to the statement of the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/67/L.72, and noted that the Fifth Committee would examine, during the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, the programme budget implications arising from the draft resolution and the report of the Advisory Committee.

4. **The Advisory Committee notes with concern the exceptional procedure followed by the Secretary-General in presenting the statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/67/L.72, whereby the statement contained in A/67/927 had been presented to the General Assembly, without it being considered in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, which reads:**

> **No resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General. No resolution in respect of which expenditures are anticipated by the Secretary-General shall be voted by the General Assembly until the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) has had an opportunity of stating the effect of the proposal upon the budget estimates of the United Nations.**

5. Concerning the exceptional procedure noted above, the Advisory Committee, upon enquiry, was provided with the information already contained in the summary of the report of the Secretary-General, and was further informed that, subsequent to the adoption of resolution 67/290 on 9 July 2013, the statement on the programme budget implications was reformatted into a report on revised estimates for the consideration of the Fifth Committee. **The Committee regrets the non-compliance by the Secretary-General with the procedure established under rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in presenting the statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/67/L.72 (A/67/927).**

6. **The Advisory Committee trusts the Secretary-General to ensure in the future that all statements on programme budget implications are presented to the Fifth Committee in accordance with the procedure established under rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.**

7. In paragraph 3 of his report, the report of the Secretary-General indicated that resolution 67/290 responds to a mandate from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012. In the outcome document of the Conference, entitled "The future we want", Heads of State and Government decided to establish a universal, intergovernmental, high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development and subsequently replacing the Commission (see resolution 66/288, annex, para. 84). In its resolution 67/290 (para. 2), the General Assembly decided that the high-level political forum on sustainable development would provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments and enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. It also decided that the meetings of the high-level political forum would be convened every

four years under the auspices of the Assembly, and annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

8. At the time of its consideration of the revised estimates of the Secretary-General (A/68/365), the Advisory Committee was informed that on 20 September 2013, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 68/1, entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council". The resolution provides, inter alia, that the regular meetings of the substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council will be held in New York and the humanitarian affairs segment shall continue to alternate between New York and Geneva.[1] The resolution also provides that the high-level segment of the Council will include the three-day ministerial segment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development provided for in resolution 67/290. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the resolution required the Secretary-General to further revise his estimated expenditure for the high-level political forum on sustainable development. **The Committee believes that, subsequent to the adoption by the Assembly of its resolution 68/1, the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/365) should have been revised to reflect the provisions of the resolution, as applicable to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, prior to being presented for its consideration. The Committee trusts that, in future, changes arising out of new mandates of the Assembly, when applicable, shall be fully reflected in documents presented to the Committee for its consideration.**

9. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, subsequent to the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 68/1, the additional resources required to support the activities relating to the high-level political forum amounted to $754,600 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. According to the Secretary-General, the additional resource requirement consisted of the travel expenses for one representative of each of the least developed countries, to be paid from the regular budget, for participation in all formal meetings of the forum. The Committee was also informed that the additional resource requirements identified in A/68/365 would need to be revised as follows:

(a) The cost of travel of representatives would be estimated at $754,600, reflecting an increase of $58,800 compared with the $695,800 identified in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the revised estimates of the Secretary-General (see resolution 68/1, annex, para. 16);

(b) The cost of travel of staff in 2015 in the amount of $46,000, as identified in paragraph 16, would no longer be required.

The Committee was further informed that the above changes would result in a net increase of $12,800 in the level of additional resources requested in the report.

10. **Taking into account its comments and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee has no objection to the additional resource requirement of $754,600 estimated by the Secretary-General under**

[1] Currently, the Economic and Social Council holds its annual four-week substantive session in July in alternate years in New York and Geneva. The substantive session is organized in five segments: the high-level segment, the coordination segment, the operational activities segment, the humanitarian affairs segment and the general segment.

section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriation for the biennium.

11. As indicated in paragraph 8 above, pursuant to resolution 68/1, the Economic and Social Council shall hold the regular meetings of the various segments of its substantive sessions in New York, with the exception of the humanitarian affairs segment, which shall continue to alternate between New York and Geneva. The Advisory Committee is of the view that this may result in a reduction in the overall cost of travel of staff proposed under section 9 for the biennium 2014-2015. **The Committee expects that, in the case of a reduction in the overall cost of travel of staff, information shall be provided in the context of the performance reports for the biennium 2014-2015.**

United Nations A/68/7/Add.15

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 64 and 134

Report of the Human Rights Council

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second, twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions

Sixteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advance version of the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second, twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions (A/68/634), which was submitted in accordance with the procedure approved in part V of General Assembly resolution 63/263. During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 5 December 2013.

2. The Advisory Committee notes that the twenty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council concluded on 27 September 2013, and that an advance version of the report of the Council on its twenty-fourth session (A/68/53/Add.1) was submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to the Controller on 24 October 2013, while an advance version of the Secretary-General's report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council was presented to the Committee on 2 December 2013. **The Advisory Committee regrets the continued late submission of the Secretary-General's reports on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council, and it reiterates its earlier observation that the late submission of documentation has a negative impact on the functioning of intergovernmental bodies (see A/67/647, para. 1). The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will submit subsequent reports on the revised**

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estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council to the Committee by no later than the end of November.

3. The total requirements arising from the 63 resolutions and decisions having financial implications adopted by the Human Rights Council at its three regular sessions in 2013 give rise to total requirements of $23,991,100, inclusive of additional requirements of $10,945,900 under the programme budgets for the bienniums 2012-2013 and 2014-2015. The Advisory Committee notes that the total requirements include $4,307,200 for the biennium 2012-2013 and $10,465,200 for the biennium 2014-2015 for activities of a perennial nature, for which provisions have been made in the respective programme budgets. The Committee was informed that no Council mandates had been terminated during the twenty-second, twenty-third or twenty-fourth session.

4. It is proposed that, of the additional requirements of $10,945,900, an amount of $5,083,300 relating to the biennium 2012-2013 and an amount of $723,500 relating to the biennium 2014-2015 be accommodated within the appropriations for the respective bienniums, and that the remaining balance of the additional requirements of $5,139,100 be financed through additional appropriations in the context of the contingency fund for the biennium 2014-2015, comprising $1,159,200 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; $3,977,100 under section 24, Human rights; and $2,800 under section 29F, Administration, Geneva. The annex to the report of the Secretary-General provides a summary, by each resolution and decision, of the related requirements, as well as the proposed sources of financing.

5. The Advisory Committee notes that, regarding the additional requirements resulting from Human Rights Council resolutions 22/13, on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and 22/24, on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, in April 2013 the Secretary-General sought and obtained the agreement of the Committee to enter into commitments of $3,857,800 under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 66/249, on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2012-2013. The Committee was informed that the related expenditure under these two mandates had been reported in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (A/68/628). Therefore, of the total additional amount of $5,083,300 accommodated within the appropriations for the biennium 2012-2013, the amount of $3,857,800 has been met from the appropriation for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, while the amount of $1,225,500 has been accommodated within the appropriations under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; section 24, Human rights; section 29E, Administration, Geneva; and section 29F, Administration, Vienna.

6. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in accordance with the criteria applied by the Secretary-General in formulating proposals for (a) the financing of mandates from existing resources, as "perennial" activities already provided for in the programme budget for 2012-2013 or included in the proposed budget for 2014-2015, and (b) the financing of new or extended mandates, either through accommodation from within existing appropriations or from additional appropriations in the context of the contingency fund, the related requirements arising from resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council were so reflected in the annex to the Secretary-General's report. The Committee was also

informed that, in general, smaller, non-recurrent activities, such as the holding of a panel discussion or the preparation of a report, were proposed for implementation within existing budget resources. Moreover, the Committee was informed that for larger mandates, such as the establishment of a new Special Rapporteur or Independent Expert or the holding of a major international conference or consultation, where the resource requirements were new and of a substantial nature, there would not be sufficient capacity or expertise to handle the related workload without additional resources.

7. In this regard, the Advisory Committee was informed that the criteria applied by the Secretary-General were based on the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/201 B, section XI, in which the Assembly decided that additional requirements for those new mandates emanating from decisions of the Economic and Social Council, to which the former Commission on Human Rights had reported prior to the establishment of the Human Rights Council by the Assembly in its resolution 60/251, which were outside the scope of the perennial activities included in the budget section on human rights, were to be treated in accordance with the provisions for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

8. The Advisory Committee notes that throughout the Secretary-General's report, in those cases where mandated activities have not been provided for in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 and have been proposed for accommodation from within the available resources in the programme budget, the Secretary-General indicates that no additional appropriation would be requested as a result of the adoption of the resolution, and that "every possible effort would be made to meet the additional requirements from the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015". In this regard, the Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, towards the beginning of a biennium, it can usually be assumed that some relatively small additional requirements resulting from mandates adopted by the Council can be covered from within the existing budget allocations. However, as the biennium progresses, there is less flexibility with the remainder of the resources to cover the planned activities, and it may not be possible to commit to absorbing additional work requirements. Nevertheless, the Committee notes that a net amount of $1,225,500 has been proposed for accommodation within available resources in the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, while $727,500 has been proposed for accommodation within the proposed programme budget for 2014-2015 (see paras. 4 and 5 above). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide information on the accommodation of additional requirements in the context of the performance report in the biennium 2014-2015. The Committee encourages the Secretary-General to continue to accommodate, to the extent possible, additional requirements for mandated activities from within existing resources, while ensuring the effective implementation of mandates.**

9. The Secretary-General's report contains the texts of the statements of programme budget implications corresponding to each of the resolutions with financial implications, indicating the purposes of the requirements under the terms of the mandates; however, the Advisory Committee notes that information on expenditure in respect of the biennium 2012-2013 has not been included in the report (see para. 10 below). In this regard, the Committee was informed that all of the requested resources in the report were proposed for new mandates of the Council and that, with few exceptions, there had been no prior expenditure for those

activities. The Committee was also informed that the new mandates that had already resulted in actual expenditure in the biennium 2012-2013 included the following:

(a) Resolution 22/13, on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, resulting in total expenditure in the biennium 2012-2013 of $1,044,700;

(b) Resolution 22/18, on assistance to the Republic of Mali in the field of human rights, resulting in total expenditure in the biennium 2012-2013 of $65,100;

(c) Resolution 22/24, on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, resulting in total expenditure in the 2012-2013 biennium of $2,954,600, of which the amount of $2,486,200 had been met from the existing appropriation;

(d) Resolution 24/14, on human rights and unilateral coercive measures, resulting in total expenditure in the 2012-2013 biennium of $127,100;

(e) Resolution 24/19, on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, resulting in total expenditure in the 2012-2013 biennium of $187,500.

10. **The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that the presentation of proposals for additional requirements for the implementation of new mandates should include a clear analysis of actual expenditure in respect of similar activities and the current status of expenditure under the affected budget sections (see A/67/647, para. 7), and the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to provide such detailed supplementary information in respect of all revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications.**

General observations and recommendations

11. The Advisory Committee notes that three new posts (1 P-4 and 2 P-3) have been proposed for establishment under section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, in connection with resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its three regular sessions in 2013 to support the activities mandated by the Council in its resolutions 24/19, 24/20 and 24/24. The Committee provides its comments and recommendations on the proposed new posts in the paragraphs below.

Human Rights Council resolution 24/19

12. In paragraph 225 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that Human Rights Council resolution 24/19, on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, would result in additional requirements of $555,300. In addition, the amount of $30,600 would be required under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. A new P-3 post is proposed under section 24, Human rights, whose incumbent would be responsible for the implementation of the resolution as the focal point for cooperation between the United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, including for the preparation for and organization of the requested workshop in 2014; and for the drafting of the report on the workshop to be presented to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposals.**

Human Rights Council resolution 24/20

13. In paragraphs 228-231 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that Human Rights Council resolution 24/20, on the human rights of older persons, would result in estimated requirements of $1,312,800 for the biennium 2014-2015, including $336,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $976,000 under section 24, Human rights, which would be sought under the terms of the contingency fund for the biennium 2014-2015. In addition, the amount of $30,600 would be required under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. The proposed requirements include one new P-5 post as well as general temporary assistance funds at the P-3 level for 12 months (6 months per annum), to assist the mandate holder by, inter alia, providing inputs in the preparation of thematic studies and reports; providing substantive assistance in the development of questionnaires for data collection; assisting in the analysis of information received; assisting the mandate holder, as appropriate, at specific events related to the mandate; undertaking activities in follow-up to the mandate holder's findings; accompanying the mandate holder on missions; and drafting communications. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that there were currently no staff in OHCHR working on the issue of the human rights of older persons.

14. In relation to this mandate, the Secretary-General proposes a consultancy at the P-3 level for 12 months (6 months per annum), at a total cost of $180,600. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in accordance with paragraph 5 (f) of resolution 24/20, the mandate holder was required to assess the human rights implications of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. In this regard, the consultant would conduct specific research and a desk review in order to gather all available information pertaining to the Plan of Action, with a view to assessing its human rights implications and collecting relevant best practices. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposals.**

Human Rights Council resolution 24/24

15. In its resolution 24/24, on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, the Human Rights Council requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to designate, within the existing structures, a United Nations-wide senior focal point to, inter alia, engage with all stakeholders, in particular Member States, to promote the prevention of, protection against and accountability for reprisals and intimidation related to cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms. The Secretary-General's report indicates that provisions for the activities requested under resolution 24/24 have not been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 and, therefore, that an additional appropriation of $397,200 under section 24, Human rights, would be sought under the terms of the contingency fund for the biennium 2014-2015, and an amount of $38,400 would be required under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment (see A/68/634, para. 242).

16. It is proposed that one new post of Assistant at the P-4 level be established to support the senior focal point for reprisals and intimidation related to cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms, which amounts to $397,200 for the biennium 2014-2015. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposed post of Assistant (P-4) would be responsible for receiving and verifying information regarding the alleged reprisals for the focal point and that the related work would be labour-intensive, as there were likely to be allegations of reprisals relating to interaction with all parts of the United Nations system regarding human rights concerns. The incumbent would support the focal point in the determination of proposed actions and follow-up, which would involve discussions with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and liaison with Member States as well as with alleged victims. The incumbent would also develop information tools, such as a secure database, to assist the focal point and to collect best practices developed at the regional and national levels to address reprisals and intimidation, as well as design outreach materials.

17. The Advisory Committee notes that while the resources related to the focal point have been included in the revised estimates, the Third Committee has meanwhile decided to defer the consideration of, and action on, resolution 24/24 in order to allow time for further consultations thereon (see A/C.3/68/L.75). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the resolution had been adopted by the Third Committee on 27 November 2013, when the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates had already been finalized. The Committee was also informed that should the referenced resolution be adopted by the General Assembly, the related resources would not be allocated, pending further consideration by the Assembly.

18. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretary-General had not yet been able to appoint a senior focal point as envisaged under resolution 24/24. **From an administrative and budgetary perspective, the Advisory Committee has no objection with respect to the resources proposed by the Secretary-General.**

Data collection by non-governmental organizations and institutions contracted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

19. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, while commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions did not contract non-governmental organizations or other institutions to collect or analyse data, OHCHR regularly used specialized institutions for the collection and analysis of data. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request OHCHR to provide detailed information on the criteria and the contractual and procurement arrangements and procedures for the use of non-governmental organizations and other institutions for the collection and analysis of data, and the related internal procedures and staffing required to review such data, in the next report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council.**

Travel resources

20. The Advisory Committee notes that requirements for the travel of staff, representatives, Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and panellists are proposed in relation to the resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council.

The Committee recalls, from its report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, that the Secretary-General did not provide information on the savings anticipated as a result of the decisions on travel-related measures taken by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/254 A (see A/68/7, para. 121). **The Advisory Committee expects that savings resulting from the implementation of the travel-related reform measures adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 65/268 and 67/254 A will be reflected in the performance report for 2014-2015 (see A/68/7, para. 123).**

Conclusion and recommendation

21. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in paragraphs 276-278 of the report of the Secretary-General. **Subject to its observations and recommendations made in the present report, the Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposals of the Secretary-General.**

United Nations A/68/7/Add.16

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 134 and 69 (c)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.55/Rev.1

Seventeenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/68/16) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.55/Rev.1 on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. During its consideration of the statement, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 16 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process with the Government and the people of Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard;

(b) To give all necessary assistance to enable the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to discharge their mandates fully, effectively and in a coordinated manner;

(c) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

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3. The statement submitted by the Secretary-General contains information with respect to the following: (a) the relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 (para. 3); (b) the activities by which the requests would be implemented (paras. 4-10); and (c) estimated resource requirements for a one-year period from 1 January to 31 December 2014 (paras. 11-14).

4. The estimated resource requirements for 2014 are as follows:

(a) The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar ($1,363,400 (net)): the requirements have been included in the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/68/327/Add.1);

(b) The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar ($73,600): the requirement has been provided under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (A/68/6) (sect. 24).

5. In its report on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/68/7/Add.10), the Advisory Committee has made comments and recommendations with respect to the proposed resources for 2014 for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar. The Committee recalls, in particular, that it was informed, upon enquiry, that after the finalization of the resource requirements for 2014, it had been confirmed that resources for consultancy requirements, in the amount of $24,800, would no longer be required, as the expertise was now available and work was being done by others within the United Nations system. The Committee has, therefore, recommended a reduction of $24,800 from the proposed resources for 2014 for the Office (ibid., para. 64).

6. The Advisory Committee further recalls that, during its consideration of the proposed resources for special political missions for 2014, it noted that a provision of $1,002,800 was proposed for international staff in the Office of the Special Adviser on Myanmar, whereas the actual expenditure in 2012 and the projected expenditure for 2013 were much lower. The Committee was informed that no vacancy factor had been applied in estimating the budgets for 2012 and 2013, and that it was assumed that all positions would be encumbered for the full period in 2014. The Committee has requested that the Secretary-General provide the most updated information on the incumbency rate of the Office and on recruitment status, if applicable, to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the budget for 2014 (ibid., para. 62).

7. **Subject to its recommendation in its report A/68/7/Add.10, paragraph 64 (see para. 5 above), which is currently before the General Assembly for consideration, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.55/Rev.1, resource requirements amounting to $1,338,600 net of staff assessment would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014 for the continuation of the good offices efforts of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar. Those requirements would be charged against the provision for special political missions included under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.**

United Nations A/68/7/Add.17

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 134
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster III: United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

Eighteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

I. Introduction and background

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed resource requirements for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014 (A/68/327/Add.7). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 9 December 2013.

2. By its resolution 2102 (2013) of 3 June 2013, the Security Council established UNSOM to support the Federal Government of Somalia in reaching its goal of delivering elections in 2016, in close cooperation with other United Nations agencies and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). As indicated in paragraph 4 of the report of the Secretary-General, the mandate of the Mission would be to: (a) provide United Nations good offices functions, supporting the Federal Government of Somalia's peace and reconciliation process; (b) support the Federal Government of Somalia, and AMISOM as appropriate, by providing strategic policy advice on peacebuilding and State-building; (c) assist the Federal Government of Somalia in coordinating international donor support; (d) help build the capacity of the Federal Government to: (i) promote respect for human rights and women's empowerment; (ii) promote child protection and implement the relevant Somali government action plans on children and armed conflict; (iii) prevent conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence; (iv) strengthen Somalia's justice

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institutions and help ensure accountability, in particular with respect to crimes against women and children; and (e) monitor, help investigate and report to the Council on human rights in Somalia.

3. In paragraph 5 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that a temporary headquarters for UNSOM has been established at Mogadishu International Airport and that field offices have been (or are being) established in Hargeysa, Garoowe, Baidoa, Kismaayo and Beledweyne. He also indicates that the Mission has a small liaison office in Nairobi.

II. Resource requirements

4. The estimated resources requested by the Secretary-General to implement the mandate of UNSOM in 2014 amount to $50,394,800 (net of staff assessment). They comprise requirements to cover travel and allowances for six United Nations police in Mogadishu ($126,500), salaries and common staff costs for the staffing complement of 221 civilian personnel ($19,103,200), as well as requirements for operational costs ($31,165,100) (ibid., para. 45). The Secretary-General indicates that the resource requirements are based on a critical assessment of what is achievable during the period (ibid., para. 19).

Staffing

5. The Secretary-General proposes a civilian staffing complement of 221 personnel comprising 129 international positions (1 Under-Secretary-General, 2 Assistant Secretary-General, 1 D-2, 6 D-1, 28 P-5, 25 P-4, 21 P-3, 1 P-2 and 44 Field Service), 80 national positions (51 National Professional Officer and 29 Local level) and 12 United Nations Volunteer positions. The staffing proposals also include three positions for offices at Headquarters to provide backstopping services (1 P-5 in the Africa I Division of the Department of Political Affairs, 1 P-4 in the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and 1 P-4 in the Programme Planning and Budget Division of the Department of Management).

6. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the position of Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General had been classified at the level of Assistant Secretary-General because the incumbent had to have the requisite experience to provide political and operational advice to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on all matters related to the implementation of the mandate of UNSOM and to temporarily assume the duties and the responsibilities of the Special Representative whenever needed. The Committee was further informed that the level of the position would enable the incumbent to represent UNSOM with authority through the Mission's engagements with the leadership of the African Union and AMISOM, with the international community, as well as at United Nations system-wide and regional and international meetings, seminars and conferences.

7. Similarly, the Advisory Committee was informed that the position of Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator had been classified at the Assistant Secretary-General level in view of his or her responsibility for coordinating the United Nations country team humanitarian and development assistance. The incumbent would be in charge of the development agenda and act as the main leader on humanitarian issues, all of which

required an appropriate level of authority. In addition, the Committee was informed that the level of seniority would enable the incumbent to represent UNSOM with authority through the Mission's engagements with the international community, with the leadership of the African Union and AMISOM, as well as at United Nations system-wide and regional and international meetings, seminars and conferences.

8. The Secretary-General proposes 11 positions (1 USG, 2 P-5, 1 P-4, 3 Field Service, 1 National Professional Officer and 3 Local level) for the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee notes that, in addition to one Office Assistant (Local level), three Administrative Assistants (Field Service) would provide administrative support to the front office of the Special Representative and provide some protocol services as well. **The Committee is of the view that two Field Service positions and one Local level position are sufficient to cover the administrative support functions for the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. Accordingly, the Committee recommends against the establishment of one of the positions of Administrative Assistant (Field Service).** As for the Strategic Communications and Public Affairs Group, the Committee notes that the incumbents of two Public Information Officer positions (P-3) are proposed to undertake media and digital outreach functions. **The Committee is of the view that the public information outreach functions can be adequately covered by one position. Accordingly, the Committee recommends against the establishment of one of the positions of Public Information Officer.**

9. In paragraph 19 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the Mission has taken a phased approach to deploying its staffing and infrastructure capacities in order to balance the requirement to fulfil its mandate and the constraints resulting from security conditions on the ground. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the projected monthly deployment schedule for all categories of personnel (see annex). The Committee was also informed that, in addition to the phased deployment, a 15 per cent vacancy factor had been applied to the staffing requirements for 2014. Furthermore, the proposed deployment schedule reflects the transfer of 34 civilian staff positions to the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia effective 1 July 2014 (12 international positions (1 P-4, 2 P-3 and 9 Field Service), 9 national positions (5 National Professional Officer and 4 Local level), and 13 United Nations Volunteer positions). **The Committee commends the phased deployment strategy, which takes into account the security situation in the Mission area, and expects that it will be adhered to. The Committee encourages the Secretary-General to take all necessary security precautions to minimize the risk to staff in their performance of the Mission's mandated activities.**

10. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the distribution of the proposed staffing positions by location. According to the information, 151 positions would be located in Mogadishu, while the other positions would be located in the field offices as follows: Hargeysa (8); Garoowe (13); Baidoa (17); Kismaayo (10); and Beledweyne (6). In addition, 13 positions would be located at the liaison office in Nairobi and 3 positions in New York to provide backstopping services. During its consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals, the Committee was informed that each field office would be headed by a Senior Political Affairs Officer/Head of Office at the P-5 level and would include staff from the substantive sections of the Mission as well as support staff. The

Committee was also informed that the substantive staff in the field offices would have dual reporting lines, to their respective heads of office and to the heads of their substantive groups at Mission headquarters in Mogadishu. **The Committee expects that every effort will be made to build and maintain coherence within each field office and also among the Mission's disparate locations in order to successfully implement its challenging mandate.**

11. **Taking into account its comments and recommendations in paragraph 8 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's staffing proposals for UNSOM.**

Operational costs

12. The Secretary-General proposes an amount of $31,165,100 for operational requirements comprising: Government-provided personnel ($133,200); consultants ($481,500); official travel ($1,359,400); facilities and infrastructure ($9,090,000); ground transportation ($2,340,800); air transportation ($5,446,200); communications ($5,283,700); information technology ($1,765,100); medical ($1,488,700); and other supplies, services and equipment ($3,776,500). According to the supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee, in 2014 the Mission will focus on developing the full operational capacity required to carry out its mandated tasks, including the establishment of infrastructure and communications and information technology services.

Consultants

13. The Advisory Committee notes that the provision of $481,500 for consultants includes requirements of $103,000 to cover the cost of 12 consultants to provide training to UNSOM staff in the areas of leadership skills, team building, performance management, supervisory skills, facilitation skills, stress management and project management. **In this regard, the Committee reiterates the view that staff participation in training should be based on sound workforce planning techniques and the organizational needs and objectives of the missions. Priority should be given to recruiting trained personnel with the skills required to accomplish the functions of the position for which they are hired, thereby limiting the need for training of staff in their current function (A/66/718, para. 77). Therefore, the Committee recommends a reduction of $103,000 concerning the requirements for the 12 consultants mentioned above.**

Facilities and infrastructure

14. The provision of $9,090,000 under facilities and infrastructure would cover, inter alia, requirements for prefabricated facilities, generators, rental of premises, security services, and construction services. During its consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals, the Committee was informed that while the construction of permanent Mission headquarters outside the Mogadishu International Airport was necessary, its establishment would realistically take about three years, given the prevailing challenges. In that regard, the Committee was informed that the requirements for 2014 included only start-up funding for the Mission headquarters as well as resources to rent existing office facilities and to renovate them so as to render them compliant with minimum operating security standards. The Committee was also informed that, until the security situation improved, living accommodation

for staff would remain within the AMISOM protected area located in the Mogadishu International Airport compound. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that only $1,291,000, or 42.7 per cent of the resources proposed for 2013 under this category, had been utilized as at 21 November 2013.

15. **The Advisory Committee recognizes the necessity for UNSOM to establish office premises outside the AMISOM compound in order to increase its visibility and ensure greater access to its partners, while being compliant with minimum operating security standards. Judging from the low expenditure pattern in the current period, however, the Committee questions whether the Mission will be able to fully utilize the requested provision (see also para. 17 below).**

Air transportation

16. A provision of $5,446,200 is proposed under air transportation to cover requirements for the rental and operation of two fixed-wing aircraft as well as related costs, and also the rental and operation of one helicopter, which will be provided on a cost-sharing basis with UNSOA. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that only $206,600, or 20 per cent of the resources proposed in the amount of $1,022,600 for 2013 under this category, had been utilized as at 21 November 2013. The Committee was also informed that the projected expenditures for the remainder of the year would amount to $1,796,500.

Actual expenditures for 2013

17. During its consideration of the Secretary-General's budget proposals for UNSOM, the Advisory Committee, upon request, was provided with information on the actual expenditures for 2013 as at 21 November 2013, which amounted to $7,115,300, or 42.1 per cent of proposed resources for 2013, and projected expenditures for the period from 22 November 2013 to 31 December 2013. The actual expenditures showed a pattern of low resource utilization for operational costs, in particular under facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation, air transportation, communications, and other supplies, services and equipment, although it was explained that most of the resources would be utilized by 31 December 2013. **Based on the low expenditure pattern as at 21 November 2013, the Committee recommends an overall reduction of 5 per cent in the level of resources requested under facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation, air transportation, communications, and other supplies, services and equipment, and that any additional expenditures required under those resource categories be reported in the relevant performance report.**

United Nations Guards

18. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, because of the security situation, the Secretary-General recommended additional security adjustments to allow staff to operate safely, including the immediate deployment, as part of UNSOM, of a United Nations Static Guard Unit, to be comprised of contingents from Member States, to strengthen the security of the UNSOM compound within the Mogadishu International Airport. The Committee recalls that the Security Council, in its resolution 2124 (2013), took note of the Secretary-General's intention to deploy an appropriate United Nations Static Guard Unit and requested further details with regard to its deployment. Accordingly, the Committee

was informed that UNSOM, UNSOA and the African Union were reviewing the main elements of the concept of operations for the guard unit and would revert to the Council as soon as possible. The Committee was further informed that, pending the outcome of the Security Council's review of the deployment and planning details of the guard unit, its resource requirements had not been included in the 2014 budget proposals. However, the Committee was informed that, in addition to 40 security-related staffing positions, the proposed budget for 2014 provides for $772,500 under security services and $309,800 for the acquisition of security and safety equipment.

19. **The Advisory Committee stresses that every possible measure should be taken to mitigate the security risk to the staff members. The Committee notes the establishment of a United Nations Static Guard Unit and comments further on United Nations guards in its report on special political missions (see A/68/7/Add.10, para. 31).**

20. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the resources proposed under operational costs subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 13 and 17 above and subject to adjustments to the operational costs to reflect the reductions in staffing resources recommended by the Committee.**

Other matters

Performance measures

21. The Advisory Committee notes from the Mission's results-based-budgeting framework (ibid., para. 43) that the performance measures for some of the Mission's indicators of achievement are based on actions to be undertaken by entities such as the Parliament and the Federal Government over which the Mission has no control. **In that regard, the Committee reiterates its view that the expected accomplishments could be improved in order to better reflect what could realistically be achieved by the Mission itself and activities for which the Mission could be held accountable (A/66/718, para. 10).**

Collaboration with the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia

22. In paragraph 12 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that UNSOM is a structurally integrated mission which draws its administrative and logistical capacity from UNSOA and that all of its human resource, finance, logistics, transportation and procurement capacities are sourced through UNSOA, which is co-located with UNSOM in the Mogadishu head office and in the Nairobi liaison office. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNSOM, which is a Special Political Mission created to support the Federal Government of Somalia in its peace and reconciliation process, was different from UNSOA, which is mandated to provide support functions to UNSOM and AMISOM. Therefore, the Committee was informed that UNSOA remained a separate entity while being part of the overall framework of the United Nations in Somalia. In this regard, the Committee was informed that the UNSOA Director had dual reporting lines, to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on issues relating to providing support to the new Mission and to the Department of Field Support on issues relating to providing support to AMISOM.

23. In order to illustrate the distinct mandates of the two missions, the Advisory Committee was informed that the mine action services provided under UNSOM were for a contractual arrangement for strategic policy advice on mine action to the Federal Government of Somalia mandated by Security Council resolution 2102 (2013), whereas the mine action services provided through UNSOA were part of the logistical support package to AMISOM authorized under Security Council resolution 2036 (2012). Furthermore, the Committee was informed that the budgets, acquisition plans and associated expenditures of the two missions were managed separately in the existing information management systems of the United Nations.

24. **The Advisory Committee expects that the transparent and accurate reporting of costs associated with each of the two missions will be ensured. In that regard, the Committee requests that future budget submissions show further clarity on how their respective operational budgets for services, acquisitions and related arrangements are maintained separately.**

III. Recommendation

25. **Taking into account its comments and recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 and 20 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly: (a) approve the budget of UNSOM in the amount of $48,692,300 (net of staff assessment) for 2014; and (b) approve a charge of the corresponding amount against the provision requested under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.**

Annex

Projected monthly personnel deployment schedule for 2014

Category	Proposed staff	Monthly deployment											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
I. Military and police personnel													
Police advisers/personnel	6	4	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
II. Civilian personnel													
Professional and higher													
USG	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ASG	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
D-2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
D-1	6	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	6	6
P-5	28	15	16	16	17	18	19	20	23	25	26	27	28
P-4	25	16	18	19	20	21	21	22	23	23	23	24	25
P-3	21	7	8	11	13	16	17	17	17	18	18	19	20
P-2/1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Subtotal	**85**	**42**	**47**	**53**	**58**	**64**	**66**	**69**	**73**	**77**	**78**	**81**	**84**
General Service and other													
General Service													
Field Service	44	13	21	24	27	28	31	22	24	27	30	33	35
Security Service													
Subtotal	**44**	**13**	**21**	**24**	**27**	**28**	**31**	**22**	**24**	**27**	**30**	**33**	**35**
Total, international staff	**129**	**55**	**68**	**77**	**85**	**92**	**97**	**91**	**97**	**104**	**108**	**114**	**119**
National staff													
National Professional Officers	51	15	21	24	29	33	37	35	35	40	40	46	46
Local level	29	11	17	22	24	25	25	21	23	23	25	25	25
Total, national staff	**80**	**26**	**38**	**46**	**53**	**58**	**62**	**56**	**58**	**63**	**65**	**71**	**71**
Other personnel													
Temporary assistance	3	0	1	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Nations Volunteers	12	0	9	10	11	11	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Government-provided personnel	10	5	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Total, other personnel	**25**	**5**	**15**	**23**	**24**	**24**	**25**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**

United Nations A/68/7/Add.18

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 134
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster III: Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic

Nineteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advance version of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/68/327/Add.8 and Corr.1). The report contains the proposed resource requirements for the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemic Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2014. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses provided on 11 December 2013.

II. Mandate and planning assumptions

2. In paragraphs 1 to 4 of his report, the Secretary-General provides information on the background, mandate and objective of the Joint Mission. As indicated in the report of the Security Council, in its resolution 2118 (2013), authorized an advance

13-62016 (E) 161213

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team of United Nations personnel to provide assistance to OPCW activities in the Syrian Arab Republic, and also requested the Secretary-General to make recommendations regarding the role of the United Nations in eliminating the Syrian chemical weapons programme. The Secretary-General put forward his recommendations in a letter to the Council dated 7 October 2013 (S/2013/591). In a letter dated 11 October 2013 (S/2013/603), the President of the Council informed the Secretary-General that the Council had authorized the establishment of the Joint Mission.

3. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that three phases of activity have been identified: (a) in the first phase, an initial presence and operating capability in Damascus is to be established; (b) in the second phase, the initial inspections of all Syrian chemical weapons production and storage facilities are to be completed, along with oversight of the destruction by the Syrian Arab Republic of all chemical weapons production equipment; and (c) the third phase is to be dedicated to support, monitoring and verification of the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. The Secretary-General also indicates that phase I and a majority of phase II activities have been completed by the Joint Mission, and that the phase III implementation process commenced on 1 November 2013.

4. The planning assumptions of the Joint Mission for the period January-June 2014 are set out in paragraphs 8 to 20 of the report. The Secretary-General states that the Joint Mission has currently absorbed the initial advance team and will operate as a single entity under the authority of the Special Coordinator. The Joint Mission will comprise a United Nations component and an OPCW component working in their respective areas of competence. OPCW will serve as the lead technical agency responsible for the verification of the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. The United Nations will provide support to overall coordination, including international assistance, and liaison with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and other national and regional actors, security arrangements, logistics, information assessments, communications and outreach, and administration. The Secretary-General indicates that the priorities of the Joint Mission will be to complete mandated tasks by the end of June 2014, in full accordance with the Executive Committee's decision and the Security Council's resolution.

5. The Secretary-General states that the Joint Mission will maintain offices in Damascus and Cyprus, a liaison office in New York, and representation at OPCW headquarters in The Hague. The Special Coordinator will be based in Damascus, but will carry out extensive functions from Cyprus and travel extensively. An Office of the Special Coordinator will be established in Cyprus to provide political advice, liaison, coordination, reporting and administrative functions in support of the Special Coordinator. In addition, a staging area and Support Back Office have been established in Cyprus, which will serve as a training centre for Joint Mission personnel as well as a storage location for logistics and operational equipment, and from which teams travelling to the Syrian Arab Republic to conduct inspection visits will gather and plan their missions. The Support Back Office will provide human resources, finance, administrative and other support services for the Joint Mission from Cyprus. For security and operational expediency reasons, the Joint Mission Support Back Office and Office of the Special Coordinator will be located within the protected area of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and will be upgraded, as necessary.

6. In addition, the Joint Mission will cooperate with other entities and draw upon: (a) substantive support from the Office of the Chef de Cabinet, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Field Support, the Department of Safety and Security and the Office for Disarmament Affairs, as well as the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme; (b) administrative support from the Executive Office of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support; and (c) support from other entities, including the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The Secretary-General further states that, in the light of the short duration of the mandate of the Joint Mission, a robust Headquarters surge capacity will be necessary from the United Nations and OPCW headquarters in New York and The Hague to ensure immediate and effective operational capabilities.

7. The budget proposal provides for the completion of phase II activities and the full implementation of phase III of the Joint Mission operation over the period 1 January to 30 June 2014. With regard to the requirements of the Joint Mission in terms of assets, the Secretary-General indicates that communications and secure mobility needs will be met through a combination of sources, including transfers from other missions and United Nations reserves, drawings from strategic deployment stocks and donations from Member States. Requirements for vehicles have already been met by donors with the exception of three armoured ambulances. Furthermore, it is envisaged that, during the entire mandated period, fixed-wing aircraft donated by contributing Governments will be used to meet some of the Joint Mission's requirements for aviation capacity for movements between Cyprus and Lebanon, between Cyprus and Latakia (subject to security conditions) and for some missions of the Special Coordinator and senior staff. However, associated costs for fuel, crew accommodation, and landing fees will, in some cases, be covered by the Mission.

8. The Secretary-General indicates that all logistical requirements relating to the removal and destruction of chemical weapons, precursors and all related facilities and any other required procedures of phase III implementation will be funded by the international community. It is expected that either in-kind donations or voluntary contributions to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic through complementary trust funds administered by OPCW or the Joint Mission will cover associated removal costs. A separate trust fund administered by OPCW will address all external destruction of chemical material once taken outside the country. Moreover, it is expected that the Syrian Arab Republic may require assistance with regard to destruction that will take place within the country.

9. The Secretary-General further indicates that OPCW will be responsible for funding the direct costs of its own personnel, including movements to and from the Mission area (movements within the Mission area will be the responsibility of the United Nations). The details of cost-sharing and other technical integration details are included in a technical agreement which is to be signed by the two organizations.

10. The Secretary-General also states that the Joint Mission will have to ensure the removal of all equipment, either donated to the Mission or provided on loan to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, outside the country after completion of the mandated tasks. The Advisory Committee enquired as to whether a similar

policy applied to all missions and requested further details regarding the implications of the policy, given the limited time frame for the mission. It also requested clarification regarding the treatment of computers and vehicles provided by other missions. In response to its query, the Secretariat indicated that the last sentence of paragraph 17 should be amended to read as follows: "It should be noted that the Joint Mission will ensure the removal of equipment, either donated to the Mission, or provided on loan to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, outside the country for destruction activity, after completion of the mandated tasks, in line with the terms and conditions under which such donated equipment was provided", and that a corrigendum to the report of the Secretary-General would be issued to reflect the amendment. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the Joint Mission would follow the standard procedures established for the disposition of assets of peacekeeping operations, as set out in Regulation 5.14 of the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that the assets of the Joint Mission are disposed of with due regard for all safety precautions, including environmental protection.**

11. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the related resolutions referred to in Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and mentioned in paragraph 4 of the report of the Secretary-General were Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and 2042 (2012) and 2043 (2012) on the Middle East.

III. Information on the current period

12. As indicated in paragraph 36 of the report of the Secretary-General, the initial activities of the Joint Mission for the period from October to December 2013 were funded under the commitment authority of the Secretary-General under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 66/249 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2012-2013, in the amount of $5,073,300, including for up to 123 positions, which has been reflected in the second performance report for the biennium 2012-2013.

13. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that expenditures incurred to date amounted to approximately $2.6 million, comprising costs for civilian personnel ($0.2 million), official travel ($1.2 million), rental of premises ($0.6 million), miscellaneous services and supplies ($0.4 million) and the acquisition of critical medical, ground transportation, and safety and security equipment ($0.2 million). Of the 123 positions proposed for the mission (75 international and 48 national), 78 were encumbered as of 10 December 2013, including 50 international and 28 national positions. Furthermore, in Damascus, the Joint Mission operated 22 armoured vehicles donated by various Governments; 1 armoured ambulance on loan from the Office of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria; 1 cargo truck and 1 fuel truck on short-term loan from UNIFIL; and 10 rented vehicles. The Advisory Committee was further informed that it was anticipated that the full allotment provided under the commitment authority of the Secretary-General under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 66/249 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2012-2013, in the amount of $5 million, would be spent by the end of 2013.

14. Upon enquiry as to the voluntary contributions, in-kind donations and pledges received to date, the Advisory Committee was informed that voluntary contributions received amounted to $2 million and pledged contributions to $2.65 million. In addition to the above-mentioned donated vehicles, donations in kind, pledged and/or received, included the standby use of a C-130 aircraft until the end of June 2014, the airlift of armoured vehicles, close protection teams and satellite imagery and data. Negotiations on potential additional contributions and donations remained ongoing.

15. The Advisory Committee requested further information on the support provided to the Joint Mission by UNIFIL and UNFICYP. It was informed that UNIFIL provided support to the Joint Mission in the areas of transit services for cargo and personnel through Lebanon, visa application and processing with the Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic, telecommunications and information technology, maintenance and servicing for ground transportation, and financial services. UNFICYP provided support with regard to procurement, office accommodation, human resources management, travel of staff in the Office of the Special Coordinator and liaison with the Government of Cyprus. The support provided by those missions was on a reimbursable basis.

IV. Resource requirements

16. The proposed requirements for the Joint Mission for the six-month period from 1 January to 30 June 2014 are estimated at $11,822,900 (net of staff assessment), comprising: (a) $4,194,700 under civilian personnel costs to provide for a staffing complement of 123 positions (1 Under-Secretary-General, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 8 P-5, 13 P-4, 14 P-3, 33 Field Service and 48 Local level positions); and (b) $7,628,200 under operational costs, including provisions for consultants ($44,100), official travel ($1,492,100), facilities and infrastructure ($2,652,400), ground transportation ($993,400), air transportation ($1,153,800), communications ($440,900), information technology ($461,100), medical ($203,100), and other services, supplies and equipment ($187,300) (A/68/327/Add.8 and Corr.1, para. 35).

17. The Advisory Committee was provided with supplementary information containing an organizational chart of the Office of the Special Envoy and further details on staffing proposals which are reflected in the paragraphs below. The requirements for civilian personnel comprise: (a) $3,498,500 to provide for salaries ($2,360,400), common staff costs ($978,100) and danger pay for staff in Damascus ($160,000) for the 75 proposed international positions; and (b) a total amount of $696,200 to provide for salaries ($506,200), common staff costs ($126,400) and danger pay ($63,600) for 48 national staff positions (48 Local level). The proposed requirements reflect vacancy factors of 50 and 30 per cent for international and national staff, respectively. The positions would be distributed among the various locations of the Joint Mission as follows: (a) in the Syrian Arab Republic, 40 international positions (1 USG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 7 P-4, 10 P-3, 17 Field/Security Service) and 33 national positions; (b) in Cyprus, 27 international positions (4 P-5, 3 P-4, 4 P-3, 16 Field/Security Service) and 15 local positions; (c) in New York, 7 international positions; and (d) in The Hague, 1 international position.

18. For the substantive component of the Joint Mission, a total of 36 positions are proposed for the Office of the Special Coordinator, which comprises the following proposed offices/units:

(a) An immediate Office of the Special Coordinator with a total number of 10 positions, comprising 2 in Damascus and 8 in Cyprus, as follows:

- The Special Coordinator (Under-Secretary-General), based in Damascus
- One Senior Public Information Officer (P-5), based in Damascus
- One Special Assistant/Political Affairs Officer (P-5), based in Cyprus
- One Political Affairs/Liaison Officer (P-4), based in Cyprus
- One Special Assistant (P-3), based in Cyprus
- One Senior Staff Assistant (Field Service), based in Cyprus
- Two Field Security Assistants (2 Local level), based in Cyprus
- One Team Assistant (1 Local level), based in Cyprus
- One Light Vehicle Driver (1 Local level), based in Cyprus

(b) An Office of the Deputy Head of Mission based in Damascus, to be co-located with the Office of the Chief of Staff/Deputy Head of Mission, comprising the Deputy Head of Mission (funded by OPCW) and one Administrative Assistant (Field Service), responsible for assisting the Deputy Head of Mission;

(c) An Office of the Chief of Staff/Deputy Head of Mission co-located with the Office of the Deputy Head of Mission, comprising a total number of 11 positions in Damascus:

- One Chief of Staff/Deputy Head of Mission (D-2)
- One Senior Liaison Officer (P-5)
- One Liaison Officer (P-4)
- One Political Affairs Officer (P-4)
- One Information Analyst (P-3)
- One Information Management Officer (P-3)
- One Coordination Officer (P-3)
- One Administrative Assistant (Field Service)
- One Protocol Assistant (Local level)
- One Public Information Assistant (Local level)
- One Driver (Local level)

(d) A Donor Coordination/Advisory Cell based in Cyprus comprising the following 6 positions:

- One Senior External Relations Officer (P-5)
- One Senior Coordination Officer (P-5)
- One Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5)
- One Trust Fund Budget Officer (P-4)
- One Light Vehicle Driver (Local level)

- One Team Assistant (Local level)

(e) A Liaison Office in New York comprising 7 positions, as follows:

- One Director (D-2)
- One Principal Political Affairs Officer (D-1)
- One Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5)
- One Coordination Officer (P-4)
- One Planning Officer (P-4)
- Two Team Assistants (2 General Service (Other level))

(f) A liaison function in The Hague, with one Planning Officer (P-4) position for a focal point responsible for sharing information between OPCW and the United Nations.

19. The security component of the Joint Mission would comprise 24 positions, of which 11 are proposed to be based in Damascus and 13 in Cyprus, as follows:

- One Chief Security Officer (P-4), based in Damascus
- One Deputy Chief Security Officer (P-3), based in Damascus
- One Security Officer (P-3), based in Damascus
- Two Field Security Coordination Officers (2 Field Service), based in Damascus
- Two Close Protection Officers (2 Field Service), based in Damascus
- Four Field Security Assistants (4 Local level), based in Damascus
- One Security Officer (P-3), based in Cyprus
- One Field Security Coordination Officer (1 Field Service), based in Cyprus
- Ten Close Protection Officers (10 Field Service), based in Cyprus
- One Security Assistant (Local level), based in Cyprus

20. A total of 63 positions are proposed for the support component, as follows:

(a) An Office of the Chief of Mission Support with a total of 9 positions comprising 5 positions in Damascus and 4 in Cyprus, as follows:

- One Chief of Mission Support (D-1), based in Damascus
- One Planning Officer (P-4), based in Damascus
- Two Interpreters (P-3), based in Damascus
- One Administrative Assistant (Field Service), based in Damascus
- One Administrative Officer (P-4), based in Cyprus
- One Training Officer (P-3), based in Cyprus
- One Administrative Assistant (Local level), based in Cyprus
- One Light Vehicle Driver (Local level), based in Cyprus

(b) An Office of Administrative Services with 15 positions, comprising 8 in Damascus and 7 in Cyprus:

- Two Administrative Officers (1 P-4, 1 P-3), based in Damascus
- One Administrative Assistant (Local level), based in Damascus
- One Human Resources Officer (Field Service), based in Damascus
- One Human Resources Assistant (Local level), based in Damascus
- One Human Resources Officer (Field Service), based in Cyprus
- Two Human Resources Assistants (1 Field Service, 1 Local level), based in Cyprus
- One Travel Assistant (Local level), based in Cyprus
- One Budget and Finance Officer (P-3), based in Cyprus
- One Budget Assistant (Field Service), based in Cyprus
- One Finance Assistant (Field Service), based in Damascus
- One Finance Assistant (Local level), based in Cyprus
- One Medical Officer (P-4), based in Damascus
- One Nurse (Field Service), based in Damascus

(c) An Office of Integrated Support Services comprising 39 positions, of which 35 are based in Damascus and 4 in Cyprus:

- One Chief of Technical Services (P-5), based in Damascus
- One Logistics Officer (P-3), based in Damascus
- One Logistics Assistant (Local level), based in Damascus
- One Supply Assistant (Local level), based in Damascus
- One Facilities Management Assistant (Local level), based in Damascus
- Two Property Management Assistants (1 Field Service, 1 Local level), based in Damascus
- Three Air Operations Assistants (1 Field Service, 2 Local level), based in Cyprus
- One Logistics Team Assistant (Local level), based in Cyprus
- One Movement Control Officer (P-4), based in Damascus
- One Movement Control Assistant (Field Service), based in Damascus
- Two Transport Assistants (1 Field Service, 1 Local level), based in Damascus
- Sixteen Light Vehicle Drivers (16 Local level), based in Damascus
- One Chief Information Systems Officer (P-3), based in Damascus
- Three Information Systems Assistants (2 Field Service, 1 Local level), based in Damascus

- Two Communications Assistants (1 Field Service, 1 Local level), based in Damascus
- Two Networking Assistants (1 Field Service, 1 Local level), based in Damascus

21. **The Advisory Committee recognizes the complexity of the Mission as well as the additional constraints it faces arising from the compressed time frame for the implementation of its mandate and its short duration, as well as the joint structure of the Mission. Nevertheless, the Committee is of the view that, in general, the proposed resources, in particular, the proposed staffing requirements, appear to be high. The Advisory Committee is of the view that the functions of the following positions could be performed within the remaining proposed capacity in their respective offices and therefore recommends against their approval:**

(a) **One Trust Fund Budget Officer position (P-4) proposed in the Donor Coordination/Advisory Cell based in Cyprus;**

(b) **One Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) and one Team Assistant (General Service (Other level)) proposed in the Liaison Office in New York.**

The proposed additional requirements under operational costs related to the establishment of the above three positions should be adjusted accordingly.

22. The proposed requirements for staff and operational costs could not be adjusted to take into account the above recommendations of the Advisory Committee in time for the issuance of the present report. **The Advisory Committee therefore requests the Secretary-General to provide the adjusted requirements to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of this item.**

23. The Committee sought clarification and further justification regarding many issues concerning the Joint Mission, including, inter alia: the rationale behind the structure of the Joint Mission and the requirements for a presence in four locations; the rationale underlying the distribution of security personnel, in particular the need for a large presence at the office in Cyprus which is co-located with UNFICYP; and details on the proposed requirements for travel of staff, air transportation and ground transportation. However, the Committee received the report of the Secretary-General very late in its session and was not in a position to conduct a detailed examination of all the proposals. **The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report comprehensively on resource utilization in the performance report.**

24. The Advisory Committee notes that, in addition to the resources proposed in the report of the Secretary-General, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons will be responsible for funding the direct costs of its own personnel and that logistical requirements relating to the removal and destruction of chemical weapons and other required procedures of phase III implementation will be funded by the international community through in-kind donations or voluntary contributions (see paras. 8 and 9 above). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide in the performance report, for information purposes, an overview of the totality of the resources made available to the Joint Mission for the implementation of its mandate.**

25. **Furthermore, while noting that the proposed estimates for staffing requirements are based on high vacancy rates (see para. 17 above), the Advisory Committee is of the view that, given the short duration of the mission, consideration could have been given to presenting a streamlined staffing structure based on an assessment of the personnel that can realistically be brought on board and become operational during the time frame of the operation of the Mission. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to analyse the lessons learned in this regard, and to refine, as appropriate, current practice for estimating requirements for missions with characteristics similar to those of the Joint Mission.**

V. Conclusions and recommendations

26. **Subject to its observations and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Approve the budget of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic for the period up to 30 June 2014;**

(b) **Approve a charge of the corresponding amount against the provision requested under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.**

United Nations A/68/7/Add.18/Corr.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 134
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster III: Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic

Nineteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Paragraph 16, subparagraph (a)

For the existing text *substitute*

(a) $4,194,700 under civilian personnel costs to provide for a staffing complement of 123 positions (1 Under-Secretary-General, 2 D-2, 2 D-1, 8 P-5, 13 P-4, 14 P-3, 33 Field Service, 2 General Service (Other level) and 48 Local level positions)

13-62313 (E) 171213

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United Nations A/68/7/Add.19

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 134 and 20

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.61

Twentieth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/68/18) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.61. During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 12 December 2013.

2. Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.61 was adopted by the Second Committee at its 40th meeting, on 6 December 2013, following which the Advisory Committee received an advanced version of the Secretary-General's statement on the programme budget implications thereof on 9 December 2013. Subsequent to its meeting with representatives of the Secretary-General on 10 December 2013 and receipt of written responses on 11 December 2013, the Committee considered the programme budget implications on 12 December 2013.

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3. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee received information relating to a comparison of the budget of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and proposed budget of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) preparatory processes, including the composition of the secretariat for Habitat II and the proposed secretariat for Habitat III. **The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that the presentation of proposals for additional requirements for implementation of new mandates should include a clear analysis of actual expenditure in respect of similar activities (see A/67/647, para. 7) and the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to provide such detailed supplementary information in respect of all future revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications.**

Mandate

4. According to the Secretary-General's statement, under the terms of operative paragraphs 4 and 9 of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.61, the General Assembly would (a) affirm resolution 24/14 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on the inputs and support required for the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be met by regular budget and voluntary contributions, encourage the Secretary-General to seek voluntary support for this purpose and call upon Member States to provide such support; (b) request the Secretary-General of the Conference to mobilize the expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including the regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, for the Habitat III preparatory process (see A/C.5/68/18, para. 2).

5. The Secretary-General indicates that the principal tasks to be carried out in the biennium 2014-2015 are to: (a) establish the secretariat of Habitat III; (b) start the preparatory process at the country and regional levels through the national habitat committees and disseminate guidelines for the preparation of national reports; and (c) hold two meetings of the Preparatory Committee in New York and Nairobi in 2014 and 2015, respectively (see A/C.5/68/18, para. 6).

Proposed resource requirements

6. Total requested resource requirements amount to $2,073,700 under section 15, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, representing a charge against the contingency fund, and an additional amount of $133,800 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. Provision has also been made in the amount of $1,063,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (see A/C.5/68/18, paras. 17 to 19).

7. The resources would provide for general temporary assistance as detailed below ($821,100); consultants ($624,000); the convening of four expert group meetings to provide collective advice to the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee ($315,000); travel ($117,500); rental and maintenance of the

premises in Nairobi ($133,600); office automation equipment ($35,000); supplies ($15,000); and miscellaneous expenses ($12,500) (see A/C.5/68/18, para. 18).

General temporary assistance

8. Resources requested for the Habitat III secretariat comprise:

(a) general temporary assistance resources for one Deputy Secretary-General of the conference (D-2) to assist the Secretary-General of the Conference in the substantive high-level consultations held with Member States and in raising political support for the preparation, participation and outcome of Habitat III; two Administrative Assistants (1 General Service (Other level) and (1 Local level)); and one Programme Assistant (Local level) for administrative support; and (b) two Senior Programme Officers (P-5) and three Programme Officers (P-3), who are expected to be funded through the trust fund established in accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 67/216 to support the preparations for the Conference (see A/C.5/68/18, paras. 7 to 9).

9. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 67/216 and paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.61 formed the rationale for proportioning the estimated funding requirements for the preparatory process of Habitat III between the two sources of funds: the regular budget and the trust fund. The Committee was also informed that the main rationale for distinguishing the sources of funds for the above positions was to determine the absolute minimum needs required for the secretariat of Habitat III in order to commence mobilization of voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to sufficiently meet the requirements of the preparatory process.

10. In paragraph 13 (a) of its resolution 67/216 the General Assembly urged international and bilateral donors as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the Preparatory Committee meetings and in the Conference itself. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.61, the Assembly would affirm the Governing Council of UN-Habitat resolution 24/14 on the inputs and support required for the Habitat III preparatory process to be met through the regular budget and voluntary contributions. **The Advisory Committee notes that the preparatory process for Habitat III is to be met through both the regular budget and voluntary contributions. The Committee considers the rationale for apportioning estimated funding requirements between the regular budget and the trust fund to be unclear. For instance, the Committee notes that the two Senior Programme Officers (P-5) and three Programme Officers (P-3), proposed to be funded through the trust fund, would perform core functions within the Habitat III secretariat of supporting the preparations for the Conference. In light of these considerations, the Committee questions the basis for funding these posts through the trust fund, rather than through the regular budget. Nonetheless, the Committee recommends approval of the requested resources at this time and will revisit this issue in the context of the performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the**

biennium 2014-2015 and in the context of any additional proposed requirements related to the Conference.

Consultants

11. The statement of programme budget implications indicates that the proposed consultants would provide specialized expertise that is not available in the Secretariat and for which building in-house capacity is not considered to be cost-effective, including: (a) one consultant for 8 work-months to collect data and create indicators required for the national, regional and global assessments; (b) one consultant for 12 work-months to manage the assessment project and design relevant assessment tools, methodologies and related outputs; (c) six consultants for 4 work-months each to prepare six regional assessment reports; and (d) one consultant for 12 work-months to prepare a global assessment report (see A/C.5/68/18, para. 12).

12. The Committee notes that in resolution 24/14 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, the Secretary-General of the Conference was requested to use expertise of UN-Habitat and of the United Nations system as a whole (paras. 2, 5, 6 and 8). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that at the second meeting of the Habitat III Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee, it was agreed that other United Nations system organizations would specify their inputs to the Habitat III preparatory process by the end of 2013. **In light of the ongoing process of determining the input by other United Nations system organizations to the Habitat III preparatory process, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that all the requested consultancy services would be required at this time, as some of the capacity would likely exist within other United Nations system organizations. However, the Committee recommends approval of the requested resources under consultants at this time, and requests that an update on the inputs of other United Nations system organizations be provided in the context of the performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.**

Conclusion

13. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.61 (a) additional non-recurrent resources in the amount of $2,073,700 would be required under section 15, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, representing a charge against the contingency fund, and the appropriation of the additional amount of $2,073,700 for the biennium 2014-2015; and (b) an additional amount of $133,800 would be required under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**

United Nations A/68/7/Add.20

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 134 and 69 (a)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments

Human Rights Committee

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.31/Rev.1

Twenty-first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/68/15), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.31/Rev.1, on the Human Rights Committee. During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications concluding with responses received in writing on 12 December 2013.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.31/Rev.1, the General Assembly would authorize the addition of one week of meeting time for the Committee in 2014 as a temporary measure, including an adequate level of Secretariat resources, which would address the backlog of communications under the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights awaiting consideration.

3. The statement submitted by the Secretary-General includes information with respect to the following: (a) the relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 and to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (paras. 4-5); and (b) the activities by which the requests would be implemented (paras. 6-8).

4. The table contained in paragraph 12 of the Secretary-General's statement provides a summary of the total estimated additional requirements, which would amount to $1,501,100 for the biennium 2014-2015, as follows:

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(a) Section 24, Human rights ($432,900);

(b) Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($1,063,300);

(c) Section 29F, Administration, Geneva ($4,900).

5. According to the statement of the Secretary-General, with the present Secretariat support, the Human Rights Committee considers approximately 80 cases per year, spread over three sessions. The statement further provides that an average of 85 new cases is registered each year for consideration by the Committee. As a result, the backlog of cases under the Optional Protocol is slowly growing (para. 6).

6. The Secretary-General proposes that the Human Rights Committee would be able to address 40 communications through one week of additional meeting time (para. 7). The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that in addition to reviewing individual communications, the Human Rights Committee also reviews States parties' reports and conducts other activities such as preparing its annual report and general comments as well as meeting with other treaty bodies and States parties. The Advisory Committee was further informed that in the past, the Human Rights Committee had required 20 hours of meeting time to deal with an average of 26 individual communications/cases. Upon request, the number of cases reviewed by the Human Rights Committee in each of its sessions was provided, as indicated in the table below.

Number of cases reviewed by the Human Rights Committee by session

Session	*2013*	*2012*	*2011*	*2010*	*2009*
First	33	42	40	33	30
Second	17	34	28	27	34
Third	22	27	22	25	22

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that the difference in the number of reviews among the various sessions of the Human Rights Committee is due to the varying complexity of the cases, the number of hours devoted to this activity (ranging between 17 and 27 per session) and the number of drafts presented to the Committee for its consideration. The Secretary-General proposes that based on past experience, it is expected that as a result of one week of additional meeting time, the Human Rights Committee would be able, as noted in paragraph 6 above, to review 40 cases, which would require 30 hours of meeting time. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the information on the actual number of cases reviewed by the Human Rights Committee in the proposed additional week of meeting time will be reflected in the performance report.**

8. The Secretary-General also proposes that the preparation of 40 cases for consideration by the Human Rights Committee would require 80 weeks of work by Professional staff at the P-3 level. For the consideration of the 40 cases, the Secretary-General proposes that provisions for a daily subsistence allowance for the 18 members of the Human Rights Committee to participate in the additional week of meetings, estimated at $72,300, and general temporary assistance, equivalent to 24 work-months at the P-3 level (2 P-3 positions), estimated at $360,600, would be

required under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (paras. 10-11).

9. Concerning the methodology used to determine the proposed level of general temporary assistance commensurate with the forecasted workload, the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that 24 work-months imply 88 weeks of work time in a year.[1] The Advisory Committee was also informed that the request for 80 weeks of work time is based on a standard average estimate of a requirement by one Professional staff of two weeks to prepare a draft for the consideration of the Human Rights Committee, and the additional time of 8 weeks is proposed to be devoted to other reports and related tasks. In this connection, the Committee was also informed that in such cases, staff are generally recruited under full-year fixed-term contracts to maintain a pool of readily available experienced staff and to avert the mandatory breaks in contracts. **The Advisory Committee notes the additional time to be available to staff to review more than 40 cases proposed by the Secretary-General, and trusts that this time will be used efficiently to review more cases, in proportion to the additional time available.**

10. According to the statement of the Secretary-General, additional conference service requirements include interpretation, documentation and support services, where documentation comprises 600 pages of pre-session, 600 pages of in-session and 600 pages of post-session documents in the working languages of the Human Rights Committee (para. 8). The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that the pre- and in-session documents are prepared in the working languages of the Human Rights Committee (English, French and Spanish) and that the post-session documents are prepared in all six official languages of the United Nations. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the cost estimate for the post-session documents is based on those documents, being issued in the six official languages, paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's statement not being sufficiently precise in this regard. It is estimated that additional conference-servicing requirements of $1,063,300 would arise under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $4,900 under section 29F, Administration, Geneva, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

11. **Subject to its comments and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.31/Rev.1, additional resources in the total amount of $1,501,100 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($1,063,300), section 24, Human rights ($432,900), section 29F, Administration, Geneva ($4,900), and section 36, Staff assessment ($33,200), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriation for the biennium.**

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[1] From the 52 weeks of five working days each in a year, 2 weeks (or 10 days) of official United Nations holidays and 6 weeks of annual leave entitlement to United Nations staff under fixed-term contracts are required to be deducted, thereby making 44 weeks of work time available for each staff per year, assuming no sick leave is availed of.

United Nations A/68/7/Add.21

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 134 and 19 (b)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.67

Twenty-second report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advance version of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.67 on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/C.5/68/19). During its consideration of the statement, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General on 12 December, who provided additional information and clarifications, concluding with responses received in writing on the same day.

2. Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.67 refers to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex), which included a call to convene a third international conference on small island developing States in 2014. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 14, 15 and 20 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would:

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(a) Decide that:

(i) The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference would be held over three days, from 24 to 26 February 2014, to discuss the objectives and substantive theme of the Conference and organizational and procedural matters, including the rules of procedure, and to elect the Bureau;

(ii) The final meeting of the Preparatory Committee would be held over five days, from 23 to 27 June 2014, to finalize the preparatory work for the Conference, including the outcome document;

(b) Also decide that all meetings of the Preparatory Committee would be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

(c) Decide that the Conference should be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in annex II to the resolution, namely, that:

(i) The Conference would consist of an opening and a closing and a total of six plenary meetings;

(ii) The Conference would include six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, held in parallel with the plenary meetings.

3. The statement submitted by the Secretary-General includes information with respect to the following: (a) the relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6/Rev.1) and to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (ibid., para. 3); and (b) the activities by which the requests would be implemented (ibid., paras. 4-9).

4. The table contained in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's statement provides a summary of the total estimated additional requirements, amounting to $762,600 for 2014, under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

5. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues would be held in Samoa in parallel with the plenary meeting of the Conference. The Committee was further informed that consultations with the Government of Samoa on the preparations for the Conference had commenced; a delegation from the United Nations Secretariat, headed by the Secretary-General of the Conference, undertook the first planning mission for the Conference in April 2013, and a second planning mission is scheduled for January 2014.

6. Concerning support for the preparations for the Conference, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/207, voluntary contributions have been sought to the trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and for the participation of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself.

7. The Advisory Committee was further informed, upon enquiry, of the budgeted and proposed costs, respectively, for the second and third conferences on small island developing States (see table below).

Cost comparisons for the second and third conferences on small island developing States

	Second conference, 2005		*Third conference, 2014*	
	Conference services	*Cost (United States dollars)*	*Conference services*	*Cost (United States dollars)*
Preparatory Committee[a]				
Interpretation	–		16 meetings	
Pre-session documentation	–		56 pages	
In-session documentation	–		26 pages	
Post-session documentation	–		32 pages	
Conference				
Interpretation	28 meetings		8 meetings	
Pre-session documentation	160 pages		51 pages	
In-session documentation	80 pages		26 pages	
Post-session documentation	32 pages		32 pages	
Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues				
Interpretation	–		6 meetings	
Subtotals				
Interpretation	28 meetings	278 800	30 meetings	334 200
Pre-session documentation	160 pages	277 800	107 pages	202 800
In-session documentation	80 pages	135 700	52 pages	101 200
Post-session documentation	32 pages	55 600	64 pages	124 400
Total		**747 900**		**762 600**

[a] The Commission on Sustainable Development acted as the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 meeting and therefore there were no additional resource requirements.

8. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.67, additional resources in the amount of $762,600 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriation for the biennium.**

United Nations A/68/7/Add.22

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 134
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates

Twenty-third report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advance version of the report of the Secretary-General on the contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates (A/C.5/68/20). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its resolution 67/248, the General Assembly decided that the level of the contingency fund for the biennium 2014-2015 should be set at 0.75 per cent of the overall level of resources, or $40,445,043, within which additional requirements would be accommodated. According to the report of the Secretary-General, the total value of the relevant items that are before the Fifth Committee for decision amounts to $24,330,600. Taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Committee, which, at the time of the consideration of the Secretary-General's report, amounted to an overall reduction of $4,567,200, potential new charges to the contingency fund would amount to $19,763,400. Accordingly, should the Assembly approve the appropriation of the amounts set out in the table under paragraph 3 of the report of the Secretary-General, a balance of $20,681,643 would remain in the contingency fund to meet future additional requirements during the biennium 2014-2015.

3. The Advisory Committee recalls the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 on the use of the contingency fund. In its resolution 41/213 (annex I, sect. C, para. 8), the Assembly laid down that the programme budget should include a contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall budget level to accommodate additional expenditures relating to the biennium derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget or from revised estimates. In its resolution 42/211, the Assembly decided

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that the fund covers additional expenditures relating to the biennium that are based on decisions taken during a three-year period, which includes the year preceding the biennium and the biennium (annex, sect. B, para. 1). Furthermore, the contingency fund is to be used for revised estimates in respect of amounts required over and above the estimates in the proposed programme budget for activities that had been included in the proposed programme budget but that were not acted upon at first reading pending the submission of additional information (ibid., sect. A, para. (b) (i)). The Assembly also laid down that prudent use of the fund requires that it should not be exhausted before the end of the period of use (ibid., sect. B, para. 2) and that if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available within the contingency fund, such additional expenditures can only be included in the budget through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities; otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium (resolution 41/213, annex I, sect. C, para. 9).

4. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed charges against the fund contained in the report of the Secretary-General would amount to approximately half of the approved level of the fund for 2014-2015. This compares favourably against the proposal put forward by the Secretary-General two years ago in the context of the General Assembly's consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2012-2013, in which the proposed additional requirements amounted to approximately 85 per cent of the level of the contingency fund prior to the commencement of the biennium (see A/66/7/Add.23, para. 4).

5. During its hearing on the Secretary-General's current proposal, the Advisory Committee was informed that the level of potential new charges to the contingency fund was largely driven by new mandates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by various intergovernmental bodies. The Committee was also informed that the Secretary-General had exercised restraint in putting forward self-generated proposals that would require additional resource requirements from the fund.

6. **The Advisory Committee recalls its previous observation that, while recognizing that additional resource requirements must be considered and that it is not always possible to fit new initiatives within the biennial cycle of the regular budget, it is the responsibility of the Secretary-General, as chief administrative officer of the Organization, to ensure that the proposed programme budget presents the fullest possible picture of the Organization's requirement for any given biennium (A/67/650, para. 8). The Committee stresses that at all times, every effort should be made to incorporate additional requirements into the initial budget proposals.**

7. **The Advisory Committee also recalls its view that the contingency fund is an essential budgetary instrument for addressing additional resource requirements, emphasizing the need to adhere to the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 on its use. In the event of any constraints faced, the Committee stresses that the Secretary-General should bring these matters to the attention of the General Assembly in a timely manner (ibid., para. 9).**

8. **The Advisory Committee points out that the additional resource requirements of $19,763,400 outlined in the report of the Secretary-General relate to decisions taken before the adoption by the General Assembly of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. Prior to the Assembly's action**

on the budget, the list of potential charges to the contingency fund will need to be updated to reflect the remaining recommendations of the Committee. Based on the provision of the updated list and further to the proposed action set out in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/68/20), the Assembly may wish to consider the potential charges related to new and expanded mandates against the contingency fund for the biennium 2014-2015.